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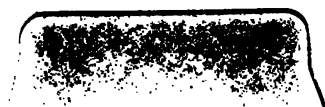


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Moody



LIFE WORDS,

From Gospel Addresses

D. L. MOODY



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LIFE WORDS

FROM

GOSPEL ADDRESSES

OF

D. L. MOODY.



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P R E F A C E.

THE wonderful results which have followed the evangelistic labours in this country of the two devoted American brethren whose names are now familiar to us as household words, has once again brought home to the Church of God the great truth that the Gospel of Christ, when faithfully proclaimed, is the power of God unto salvation, and that its sufficiency is not of man, but of God. Not with enticing words of man's wisdom; not with lofty claims to a superior spiritual discernment, or to a polished and captivating oratory; but with all simplicity, with all plainness of speech, yet with an intense conviction of its truth, and a heartfelt earnestness, has that proclamation of the Gospel been made which thousands of late have flocked to hear from the lips of Mr. Moody.

Yet the very homeliness and simplicity which characterize Mr. Moody's utterances, accompanied as they are by a most graphic descriptive power, springing from his own vivid conceptions of truth, have been the means of bringing home to the popular mind the great truths which he has set forth in a far more forcible manner than could have been accomplished by the aid of a more rhetorical art. And if with these there be taken into account the deep spiritual experience and the full Scriptural knowledge which

always distinguish Mr. Moody's teachings, we shall in some degree understand the success which, through the blessing of God, has hitherto attended his labours.

One of the most common experiences, perhaps, of those who have had the privilege of listening to Mr. Moody is that his words carry with them a recurrent power, continually cropping up afterwards with somewhat of their original force ; a sure token of vigorous and effective speech, albeit, occasionally it may be, crude and homely in form. But this often is as—

— “ flowers on furze,
The better the uncouth :
Do roses stick like burrs ? ”

It was the above fact that suggested the idea of the present little volume, with the belief that the compilation in a book form of some of the more striking passages of his discourses would be gladly welcomed by many, as a lasting memento of Mr. Moody's visit to England.

The following pages consist of a selection of such passages, taken from short-hand notes of the addresses delivered by Mr. Moody in Glasgow, Manchester, and London ; and they are now sent forth in the hope that they may in some small degree supplement his own work, and be found useful in arousing the thoughtless, in giving light and strength to the anxious and the earnest, and in magnifying the love and grace of God.

G. F. G. ROYLE.

1st June, 1875.



LIFE WORDS.

CHRISTIAN ENTHUSIASM.

SOME people object to revivals of religion because they think them productive of a temporary enthusiasm. But I contend that this enthusiasm is the grace of God being shed abroad in the heart. We generally find that when the grace of God is beginning to work, people begin to sing. It is said that larks never sing when they are flying downwards ; but as they soar upwards they begin to sing, and continue to do so throughout their upward flight. So it is in religious awakenings ; when new-born souls become alive unto God, they soar upwards and sing with joy. Let no one hastily condemn enthusiasm ; let us not be guilty of marking out the way for God to come and bless our souls.

HOW TO KEEP APART FROM THE WORLD.

THE best way is to keep out of it, and to be so actively engaged in the service of God as not to have any time or inclination for worldly amusements.

CONSECRATION TO GOD'S SERVICE.

WHAT we want is to be out-and-out on the Lord's side, brain and heart both on fire for the Lord. It is said of David's mighty men that they were right and

left handed. They were wholly consecrated ; they could use their left or their right hands for the king. That is what we want now, men who are right-handed and left-handed for the King of glory ; men who can use their eyes, and tongues, and ears, and everything for the Lord Jesus.

GOD'S COLLEGE.

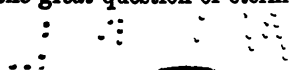
I WOULD rather a thousand times be five minutes at the feet of Christ than listen a lifetime to all the wise men in the world. If you want to get heavenly wisdom you must pass through God's college. Do you know where that is ? Why, at the feet of Christ. Mary found her place there. A man may go to Oxford or Cambridge, or anywhere else, but if he has not been to God's seminary he will never be fit for heaven. Christ puts the truth so plain that even the little children can get hold of it.

SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS.

A MAN must believe he is lost before he can be saved. One reason why many are not saved is because they do not believe they are lost. They fold their filthy rags of self-righteousness about them, instead of acknowledging that they are miserable sinners.

IS THE BIBLE TRUE ?

Is the Bible a myth, is the Bible a sham ? If it is, why, then away with it ! But if it be true that man is lost, and that Christ is come to save him, then let us earnestly seek the kingdom of God. Oh ! do not put off the salvation of your soul for another hour ; but let this be the day, let this be the hour that you accept of the gift of God. Make up your mind you will not give *yourself* rest until you have sought the kingdom of God ; *until for you the great* question of eternity is settled.



ASK GREAT THINGS OF GOD.

WE must ever recollect that there is nothing too hard for the Lord. It is as easy for God to save a drunkard or backslider as it is for me to lift my hand. God delights in doing great things, and nothing can please Him more than when we ask for a great blessing. It would have been blasphemy if any one had asked God to send His Son into the world to die for us. But since He sent His Son, what will He not give us ?

THE LITTLE LONE ONE.

I SOMETIMES think if an angel were to wing its way to heaven, and tell them that there was one little child here on earth—it might be one of those shoeless, coatless ones you call a street Arab,—with no one to lead it to the cross of Christ, and if God were to call the angels round His throne and ask them to go and spend, ay, fifty years, in teaching that child, there would not be an angel in heaven but would respond gladly to the appeal. We should see even Gabriel saying, "Let me go and win that soul to Christ." We should see Paul buckling on his old armour again, and saying, "Let me go back again to earth that I may have the joy of leading that little one to his Saviour." Ah! we need rousing, there is too much apathy amongst professing Christians. Let us pray God that He may send His Holy Spirit to inspire us with fresh energy and zeal to do His work.

THE HEAVENLY SEEKER.

WE are told that Jesus came to seek and to save that which was lost. And every man or woman is either lost or found. Yes, either saved or lost. And Christ takes the place of the Seeker. No sooner did the news reach heaven that Adam had fallen, than God came down to him. Adam ought to have gone up and down the garden of Eden crying out, "My God,

where art Thou? I have sinned, I have sinned and fallen!" Instead of that he went away and hid himself. But God came down, and His voice it was that was heard in Eden, "Adam, where art thou?" It was the voice of Christ, the voice of love. And, from the time of Adam's fall until the present, God has always taken the place of the Seeker. No man or woman has been saved but He sought them first. We do not seek after Him until He first seeks after us. We do not go to Him by nature. Our nature is to go away from Him, as with Adam when he hid away from a loving God. It is not the lost sheep from the fold hunting up the Shepherd, but it is the Shepherd seeking after the lost sheep. As Isaiah has told us, "All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned every one to his own way," and the great Shepherd, in His love, has come down after us.

THE DEVIL'S "IFS."

No sinner ever came to Christ but the devil tried to trip him up on the way. We must get rid of the devil's "ifs." But ah! how they have got into the Church!

A BLESSING FOR ALL.

WHEN Christ commenced His ministry in the wonderful sermon on the mount there was blessing, blessing, blessing upon blessing. He came to bless man, not to condemn man. Zacchæus needed blessing, and He gave it him. Poor blind Bartimæus needed blessing, and He gave it him. If there is some Zacchæus, some poor blind beggar now needing blessing, Christ will bless that needy one. The Son of man is come for that purpose; He left heaven and a throne for that. And so the vilest man can be saved if he will. The Lord is able and willing to save. "He is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

ANXIETY THE HARBINGER OF HOPE.

SEEK, oh ! seek the kingdom of God ; and be sure of this, it won't take an anxious sinner long to meet an anxious Saviour.

HOW TO READ THE BIBLE.

ONE of the best ways to read the Bible, and to become well versed in its teachings, is to read it with the help of a concordance or text-book ; searching out parallel passages, and comparing spiritual things with spiritual. Every Christian should obtain time daily to read and meditate upon the Scriptures, and accompany the exercise with prayer for the teaching of the Holy Spirit. It is of some importance to have a Bible of a good readable type. There is reason to apprehend that persons are sometimes deterred from reading their Bibles because they find the type small and illegible.

THE TIME OF GRACE.

Is it not a fact that every man and woman may find God if they will ? "Seek ye the Lord while He may be found," is the divine injunction. But the way that scripture reads implies that there is a time coming when man will not be able to find God, when men shall seek and not find. We read of such a thing. We read of their knocking at the door when it is shut. We read of their seeking with tears, but seeking too late. Not but what there was a time. I believe there is a time in the history of every man when he can accept the gift of God if he will ; when he can press into the kingdom of God if he will.

CHRISTIAN JOYFULNESS.

WHEN the Church revives, then is the time that our faces begin to lighten up ; and it is this joy of heart and

of countenance that draws men to the cross. I believe men would go to the cross much quicker than they do, were it not for the unduly doleful expressions that many Christians put on. God wants His children to be happy. Christ desires us to have hearts not merely just full of love and nothing more ; He would have them gushing up and overflowing with divine love, because our joy is His joy, and the joy of the Lord is our strength.

BE IN EARNEST.

WE all like to see a man in earnest, and going into business with all his heart. We do not like a half-hearted man. Should not we be just as much in earnest about the salvation of our souls as about the accumulation of wealth ? Let a war break out, and there be a chance of men achieving honour on the battle-field, and see how they will come forward and volunteer. They will leave their homes, their wives, and their children, and go thousands of miles away, if there be a chance of gaining honour, just for a few short fleeting years in this world. If men are thus willing to give up everything for wealth or honour in this life, how much more ought we to be willing to give up everything for the life to come ! The gift of God is life without end, eternal life. You will admit that this is worth more than everything else. If you do, why don't you ask for it ? God says you shall find Him if you seek Him with all your heart.

TOO LATE.

I HAVE no doubt that those who would not pray when the ark was building prayed when the flood came ; but their prayer was not answered. I have no doubt that when Lot went out of Sodom, Sodom cried to God ; but it was too late, and God's judgment swept it from the earth. It is not too late to obtain salvation now, *but it may be at twelve o'clock to-night.* I cannot

find any place in the Bible where I can say you may find this promised for to-morrow. I am not justified in saying that. It is only written, "Behold, *now* is the accepted time, *now* is the day of salvation."

THE GREATEST OF MISTAKES.

THOSE who begin to work for Christ may, it is true, make mistakes ; but although they may make some great mistakes, they have a very indulgent Master. But there are many people who make a terrible mistake, the biggest of all mistakes, and that is, they never do anything at all.

CHRIST THE QUICKENER.

SOME time ago I had to preach a funeral sermon, and I turned to my Bible to see what kind of sermon Christ preached on such occasions ; but I found, after turning over its pages, that He never preached any funeral sermons. If He had, why, the dead bodies would have come to life again. As a certain minister once said, it was a good thing that Christ called Lazarus by name, for if He had not, all the dead that were buried there would have been up out of their graves again. God grant that the Lord Christ by His power may quicken our dead souls !

WHAT IS "BELIEVING ?"

Two young men told me the other day that they stumbled over the word "believe." I said I would give them another, and asked them if they could "trust." One said, "Is that all ?" I replied it was ; they had simply to trust God for salvation. Yes, all we can do is to tell people how to trust and believe. If they cannot get hold of the words "trust" and "believe," yet another word, the word "receive," may be used in further illustration of believing.

TWO BIDDING FOR THE SOUL.

THERE are two who are bidding for your soul and mine—the Lord Jesus and Satan. Satan bids, and he offers that which he cannot give. He is a liar, and has been from the foundation of the world. I pity the man who is living on the promises of the devil. He will never satisfy. But the Lord Jesus is able to give all that He offers. And what does He offer? He offers peace and joy and comfort that the world knows not of. He offers eternal life in the kingdom of God. He offers a seat in His mansions. We are to sit with Him upon His throne. May God help you to make a right choice. Make up your mind you will not rest until the great question of eternity is settled, until you have crossed the border-land, and pressed into the kingdom of God.

NEARING HEAVEN.

WE want treasure in heaven to attract our hearts up there. Then the world will have very little influence over us. Our hopes will be all fixed on things above. Like men going up in a balloon, when they have ascended a little height, things down here begin to look very small indeed. What had seemed very grand and imposing, now seem as mere nothings; and the higher they rise the smaller everything on earth appears,—it gets fainter and fainter as they rise, till the railway train, dashing along at express speed, seems just like a thread, and scarcely appears to be moving at all, and the grand piles of buildings seem now like mere dots. So it is when we get near heaven, earth's treasures, earth's cares, look very small and trifling.

THE DREAD ALTERNATIVE.

I WOULD like to ask a question of every man and every woman, and I should like each one just to take *the question* home with them—"Am I saved, or am I *lost*?" *It must* be one thing or the other. There

is no neutrality about the matter. A man cannot be saved and lost at the same time ; it is thoroughly impossible. Every man, every woman, must either be saved or lost, if the Bible be true ; and if I thought it was not true, I should not be preaching, and I would not advise you to come if you think the Bible is not true ; but if the Bible be true, every man and every woman must either be in the ark or out of it, either saved or lost,

HEARING FOR OTHERS.

I HAVE noticed that in the fifty-first Psalm the word "me," or its equivalent, occurs thirty-three times. I much fear that now-a-days nine-tenths of the sermons preached are lost through the habit of hearing, not for ourselves, but for others. The application is passed over from one to another, until both text and sermon are passed out of the place of worship altogether.

HOW THE SAVIOUR SEEKS.

THERE are different ways in which the Son of man seeks men. He very often seeks them through some faithful minister. Many of you have sat under faithful ministers ; you have heard heart-searching sermons, and the truth has gone down deep into your hearts, and you have been touched, and the tears have trickled down your cheeks, and you have felt "almost persuaded to be a Christian." That was the Son of God seeking for your soul ! Some of you have perchance been startled by a tract put into your hand, entitled, perhaps, "Eternity ! where will you spend it ?" and the arrow has gone home. You may have been troubled, and may have pulled out that arrow and tried to forget it. That was the Son of God seeking for your soul ! Some of you may have had a faithful Sabbath-school teacher, who has wept over your soul in your earlier days, who prayed for you and pleaded with you to become a Chris-

tian. That was the Son of God seeking for your soul ! Many of you have had godly praying parents, who have prayed day and night for your soul. Through the prayers of such a father, such a mother, the Son of God was seeking you ! Many of you have been laid upon a bed of sickness, and have had time to meditate in the silent watches of the night ; at that period the Spirit of God has come into your chamber, has come to your bedside, and you have been troubled about eternity and about the grave, and where you would spend eternity, and how it would be beyond the grave. That was the Son of God seeking for your soul ! Some of you have lost friends ; and where is the man or woman who has not lost some loved ones ? When death came and took those loved ones from you, you were greatly troubled. The Spirit of God strove in you for weeks and months, and yet the Spirit left you because you strove against and resisted the workings of the Holy Ghost. In all these and many other ways the Son of man seeks. Can you say that the Son of God never sought for you ? Is there any person that can say, "I have lived twenty, thirty, forty, fifty years, and the Son of man never sought for my soul" ? I do not believe that man or woman lives.

THE LUXURY OF WINNING SOULS.

I WANT to hear friends who have been working in the inquiry-room give the benefit of their experience. The best of the whole Christian work lies in the inquiry-room, and I pity the man or woman who has never enjoyed the luxury of leading a soul to Christ.

THE JOY OF SALVATION.

"RESTORE unto me the joy of Thy salvation ;" so *prayed* king David. But how many professing *Christians in these days* go through life with aspects which

prejudice religion in the eyes of non-professors ! whereas a sense of happiness should give to their countenances a heavenly glow and a heavenly smile. When the Church of Christ realizes its blessedness, and is seen to be full of joy and gratitude, those who stand without will be found flocking into the kingdom of God.

SOULS THAT SHINE.

"**THEY** that be wise shall shine." It is not said *may* shine; there is no uncertainty about it. And all men like to shine—we may as well be honest, and own up the truth about it,—scientific men, statesmen, ministers—all men, like to shine; and the verse tells us who are going to shine eternally. What we do for Christ will live eternally. But if the sole motive of action is merely to shine, the result will be only disappointment. There was a woman who broke a little alabaster box for Christ, and her act is remembered still.

THE WATER OF LIFE.

It is recorded in history of a man condemned to death, that when he came to lay his head on the block the prince asked him if there was any one petition that he could grant him, and that all the condemned man asked for was a glass of water. They went and brought him a tumbler of water, but when he got it his hand trembled so that he could not bring it to his mouth. The prince said to him, "Your life is safe until you drink that water." Immediately the man took the prince at his word, and dashed the water to the ground. They could not gather it up, and so his life was saved. And you can save your soul by taking God also at His word. The water of life is offered by Him to all,—**"Whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely."** Take it, take it now, and you will live.

IS THE HEART LOYAL?

GOD uses human instruments for His work. Sometimes it is a wonder to me that He does not take the work out of our hands and put it into the hands of angels, or some others better able to do it. There are but few now that say, "Here am I, Lord; send me;" the cry now is "Send some one else. Send the minister, send the church officers, the church-wardens, the elders, but not me. I have not got the ability, the gifts, or the talents." Ah! honestly say you have not got the heart; for if the heart is loyal, God can use you. It is really all a matter of heart. It does not take God a great while to qualify a man for his work, if he has the heart for it. He may not have many talents, but if he makes good use of what he has, God will soon increase those talents.

INQUIRE THE WAY.

I THINK it would be a good thing if ministers after preaching asked if there was anything the people did not understand. I do not know though what ministers would say if the people cried out as they did on the day of Pentecost, "What must we do to be saved?" But if a man does not preach to wake up a spirit of inquiry his labour must be almost in vain. Some of the sweetest truths Christ taught was when He was asked a question. If I had lost my way in London I should inquire of the first person I met. Here we are lost in this dark wilderness, and do not know the way to our Father's mansion. Surely, then, we should inquire the way.

THE HOME OF GOD.

"HEAR Thou in heaven Thy dwelling-place, and when Thou hearest, forgive." Then God has a home, and heaven is His dwelling-place. How far away that home of God, that heaven, is I do not know. But *one thing I do know*; it is not so far away but God

can hear us when we pray. God can hear every prayer that goes up to Him there from this sin-cursed earth. We are not so far from Him but that He can see our tears, and hear the faintest whisper when we lift our hearts to Him in prayer. Do we not read, "If My people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." That is God's own word, "I will hear from heaven," and "I will forgive their sin."

WORK ITS OWN REWARD.

CHRISTIAN workers themselves profit by their work, for it does more to take the wrinkles out of the brows and shorten the long faces of some professing Christians than anything else in the world. What we want is to get out of "Doubting Castle," and we can only do it by throwing all our energies into the work of Christ.

GOOD NEWS FOR THE LOST.

If there is a man or woman who believes they are lost, I have good news to tell them—Christ will come after you. He came to save you, He came to bless you. Do not let this hour pass, then, without just accepting salvation as the gift of mercy from a loving God. He wants to deal out mercy and grace for every soul. The Son of man is come—what for? To seek and to save. Do you think He is not able to save? Is He not willing to save? There is not any man but knows deep down in his heart that Christ is able and willing to save. Oh! let Him save you while you are on praying ground; while God is talking to you, and offering you salvation without money and without price. The gift of God is eternal life. That is the gift now offered. Who will have it? Who will take the gift? Who will accept the free gift of God?

CO-WORKERS WITH CHRIST.

WHEN Jesus, along with His little band of disciples, came to the grave wherein Lazarus was laid, they found it covered by a stone. Jesus could have removed the stone Himself, but, notice, He bade His followers to remove the stone. And we find that after the Master had restored the dead man to life, He also said to them, "Loose him, and let him go." The Master could have loosed him, but He said to His disciples, "You loose him." What lesson does the Master mean to teach us by this? He means to teach His followers that whilst He alone can speak the word of life to dead souls, and bring them to life, He wants us to remove the stone, and to loose the poor souls and let them go. He would have us to be co-workers with Him. Jesus! Master! teach us how to loose their bands!

THE DIVINE POWER OF THE GOSPEL.

If there is going to be a great work done here, God must do the work. It is not any new gospel that is wanted; it is not any new power. It is the same old power—the power of the Holy Ghost; and it is the same old story—the story of redeeming love—nothing new. The world is running here and there after something new, and they come and hear the old, old story, and they say, "Well, it is not anything new after all." No, and I want you to understand, if you have come here expecting to hear something new, you will be disappointed. We have not come with any new gospel, but are just going to preach the same old truths that your ministers before have been preaching. And not only that, but we are come in weakness; and if you are leaning upon man you will be disappointed. "Cursed is the man that maketh the arm of flesh his trust." But if we lean upon God, and all our expectations are from Him, we shall not be disappointed. *What we want is to cease from man, and get done with man, and look right away straight from man up to God.*

THE INCENTIVE TO SERVICE.

SOME one has said, there was not a man in all Saul's army but knew that God could use him to meet Goliath; but there was only one that believed that God would use him, and God used that one. And what we want is not to believe that God can use us, but that God will use us. Forty days had the giant come out and pointed his finger at and defied all Israel. Forty days was Saul trembling from head to foot—and he was a head and shoulders taller than any one else in his army—but he was not the man God had chosen to meet the giant. It was the little stripling, the youngest son of Jesse, the smallest and the weakest of his sons; and God used him, and went with him, and God delivered the giant into his hands. And God will use the weak ones here if they will only let Him. God can take up the learned and the unlearned, and there is not a man living whom God cannot use if he is willing to be used.

BORDER PEOPLE.

THE whole life of man is but as a moment compared with the eternity beyond, and some have been halting during nearly the whole of it. There are a great many "border people," who are apparently neither in the enemy's territory nor that belonging to God. They are, so to speak, on the fence, and ready to take either side, according to circumstances. They try to serve God by keeping up a godly appearance, but their godliness is only an empty form. It will be a glorious day for Christianity when the line of demarcation is clearly drawn, and when true Christians shall know their friends from their foes. Oh! let us not be wavering, undecided, like Pilate, Felix, and Agrippa, but be men of character and earnestness like Daniel and like Paul.

THE FRIEND OF THE POOR.

JESUS came from heaven down to earth. He left all grandeur behind Him, He passed by palaces and thrones—to be born in a manger! He was born lowly, that He might raise men up to God. The poor have a friend in Jesus. If no one else loves them, Jesus loves them. He came to give them liberty, to proclaim to them the gospel of God's grace.

THE SAVIOUR'S CALL.

JESUS stopped right under the tree in which Zacchæus was, and all at once He looked up and saw Zacchæus, and said to him, "Zacchæus, make haste and come down." I can just imagine Zacchæus saying to himself, "I wonder who told Him my name? I was never before made known to Him." But Christ knew all about Zacchæus; and, sinner, Christ knows all about you; He knows your name, your dwelling-place. Do not think God does not know you. If you would try to hide yourself from Him, bear in mind you cannot do so. He knows where each one is; He knows all about our sins. He said to Zacchæus, "Make haste and come down." He might have added, "This is the last time I shall pass this way, Zacchæus." And thus also He speaks to sinners,—“This may be the last time I shall pass this way.” Yes, this may be your last chance of eternity. He may be passing away from some soul now. Oh! sinner, make haste and come down and receive Him.”

THE PHALANX OF VICTORY.

If we only love one another, and pray for one another, there will assuredly be success in our work for God. God will not disappoint us. When General Grant was in front of Richmond, and his army had *been repulsed* in the Wilderness, he called together

his co-commanders and held a council of war, and asked them what they thought he had better do. There were present General Sherman and General Howard, now leading generals, and all thought he had better retreat. He heard them through, and then broke up the council and sent them back to their head-quarters ; but before morning an orderly came round with this despatch from the general,—“ Advance in solid column on the enemy at daylight.” That was what took Richmond, and broke down the rebellion in our country. Fellow-Christians, let us advance in solid column against the enemy ; let us lift high the standard ; and in the name of our God let us lift up our voice, and let us work together, shoulder to shoulder, and keep our eye single to the honour and glory of Christ. Let us pray that we may get self out of the way, that Christ may be all and in all ; and then we shall have great success. Let the watchword of each one of us be, “ Here am I ; send me.”

REALITIES. •

WHEN Christ's disciples came to Him and said, “ Lord, teach us how to pray as John taught his disciples,” He taught them to pray thus :—“ Our Father which art in heaven,”—not down here. Heaven is His dwelling-place. God has His throne there now, God has His dwelling-place there now. Oh, let us make heaven *real* to ourselves. I believe heaven to be a City quite as real as London is. What we want is to make heaven real to ourselves, and hell real, and God real, and Christ real ; and then to live as if we believed these things to be real.

CLOUDS DISPERSED.

JOB's captivity was turned when he began to work for others, and I believe there are hundreds and thousands of people walking in darkness, which would soon be swept away, if they would just get outside of

themselves, and work and pray for their fellows. The moment people look straight away to Christ, and work for Him, then it is that the clouds are dispersed and light breaks in, and shines all round about their path.

THE MEN FOR GOD'S SERVICE.

THE moment we get ready to receive the baptism that comes from on high, that moment the power will come. "Why!" says Jonathan, "there is no restraint in the Lord; He can save by few as well as by many." Well, we are few, and what we want is just to let God work. I think John Wesley said, if he had one hundred men that loved no one but God, and feared nothing but sin, he would set up the kingdom of God on earth, and shake the gates of hell, in twelve months. And I believe he would have done it. One hundred such men never lived at one time. Talk about Alexander making the world tremble with his army, talk about Napoleon making the world tremble with his army, why! the tentmaker of Tarsus made the world tremble without any army at all. Saul of Tarsus! I would give more for one man like him in God's service than for ten thousand of the men who are mixed up with the world.

ALL MEN SOUGHT BY CHRIST.

LAST night, a man told me that he was anxious to be saved, but Christ had never sought for him. I said, "What are you waiting for?" "Why," said he, "I am waiting for Christ to call me; as soon as He calls me I am coming." Now, I do not believe there is a man living whom the Spirit of God has not striven with at some period of his life; I do not believe there is any person but that has been called; I do not believe that there is a person anywhere but *that the Son of God has sought for, and is seeking for, him.*

THE CURTAIN LIFTED.

WHEN a man is full of the Holy Ghost heaven does not seem far away; he can see by the eye of faith clearly into the city, and can see Christ standing at the right hand of God. Stephen was full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and the curtain was lifted and he looked in; and there he saw his blessed Lord and Saviour, whom he loved, standing at the right hand of God: "he being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God." Heaven was real to Stephen, Christ was real, He was a real living Person, and he saw Him there. And that it is which will make heaven so attractive to us—Christ will be there!

WORK FOR JESUS.

It is a privilege to work for Jesus; I am tired of hearing about the "duty" of so doing. Oh! if every Christian would resolve not to let a day pass without offering to some individual a personal invitation to come to Christ, in one twelvemonth there would not be a man or a woman in England who would not have heard such an appeal. If Christ died for us, we ought surely to be prepared to speak a word for Him. I have found this practice has been a great help in keeping my own heart warm. I have felt that my words themselves were cold and icy when I was not working for the salvation of others. There are some who say, "We don't have any sympathy with these special efforts;" and I sympathize with that objection. I believe it is the privilege of the child of God to make *continuous* efforts for the salvation of others, every day throughout the year.

THE VISION OF THE KING.

ONE glimpse of Christ will pay us for all we are called upon to endure here,—to see the King in His

beauty, to be in the presence of the King! And then, oh! the sweet thought, we shall be like Him when we see him! And we shall see Him in His beauty, we shall see Him high and exalted. When He was down here on earth it was the time of His humiliation, when He was cast out from the world, spit upon, and rejected; but God hath exalted Him and put Him at the right hand of power, and there he is now, and there we shall see him by and by. A few more tears, a few more shadows, and then the voice of God shall say, "Come up hither," and into the presence of the KING we shall go.

UNITY AMONG CHRISTIANS.

WHAT is wanted is unity among God's people. Where there is Christian union I do not believe any power, earthly or infernal, can stand before the work. When the Church, the pulpit, and the pew get united, and God's people are all of one mind, Christianity will become like a red-hot ball rolling on its way over the earth; all the hosts of death and hell will never stand before it. I believe that men will then come flocking into the kingdom by hundreds and thousands. "By this," says Christ, "shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye love one another."

THE TRUE GROUND OF REJOICING.

JESUS sent out seventy of His disciples on evangelistic work, two and two. They had been over the length and breadth of the land on this mission of love and mercy, preaching Christ's kingdom, and a great and mighty revival had taken place. (People talk about revivals, but if Christians would only follow Christ's example and go out thus over the whole land, there would be a greater revival than has ever yet been seen.) Those seventy disciples came back with great joy; they hastened to Him, exclaiming, "Lord, even *the devils* are subject unto us through Thy name."

But Christ replied, "That is good, and you do well to rejoice, but I can tell you something of far greater importance to rejoice over. It is this: rather rejoice that your names are written in heaven." There, too, is the subject-matter for our rejoicing. If we are His, *our* names are written in heaven.

MEDICINE FOR THE SOUL.

MEN don't like to have Christ preached faithfully; but it is just what they don't like to have that we must give them. I learned that long ago. The very medicine that we don't like is the medicine that we ought to have, and the very truths that men object to, and that make them angry, are the truths that bring them to the cross of Christ. What we want is to preach *Christ* in season and out of season,—

"Tell the old, old story
Of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and His glory,
Of Jesus and His love."

Why, the stone that the builders rejected has become the chief corner-stone. The very stone that they would not have was the very stone that God chose, and upon this stone He is building His Church now—upon the Rock of Ages. It is Christ, yes, Christ that men want, and then they will get sure food for eternity.

DOUBTING CASTLE.

It is the privilege of every child of God to know that he is saved. And yet I find so many people living in Doubting Castle. Why, it is salvation by doubts now-a-days instead of by faith; there are so few that dare to say, "I know that my Redeemer liveth, I know in whom I have believed." We find most Christians now-a-days shivering and trembling from head to foot—they do not know whether they are saved or not.

THE HOLY DEAD.

THE Scriptures give us strong reason to believe that our departed friends who have died to Christ are safe with Him. So that not only God the Father, Christ the Son, and angels, but the redeemed saints are in Heaven. "We know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." "We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord." I believe Paul thought when he left the body he should see the King in His beauty, that he would behold the Lord himself. "For," says he again, "I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart and to be with Christ, which is far better."

THE CURSE OF SECTARIANISM.

NOTHING is a greater hindrance to the work of God than the spirit of sectarianism. There are hundreds of thousands falling and dying around us, and the churches are idly discussing the way to reach them. May God sweep away these barriers—may these miserable walls be broken down! If Christians would adjourn all their differences till the millennium, they could then settle matters in twenty-four hours. Let them be of one mind, for nothing can keep away the blessing but the sectarian feeling. Away with party strife and back-biting! If I had a drop of sectarian blood in my veins, I would let it out before commencing to preach!

WHAT IS FAITH?

"WHAT is faith?" The Bible definition of faith is perhaps as good as any one that we know of. We are told, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Now faith is—what? The substance, or, as you have it in the margin of your Bibles, "the ground" or "confidence." *In other words, faith is dependence upon the veracity*

of another. Why, all the relationships of life are carried on on this principle of faith! Let men lose confidence one in another, and see how quickly business would cease in the commercial world. Let men withdraw their confidence from each other, and see what changes would take place in the course of to-morrow.

TRUE TREASURE.

LAY not up treasure down here. God commands you not to do it. You must obey; lay it not up on earth, but lay it up in heaven. God does not forbid that: store up as much as you like there. Gather your treasures, there, it will lead you upward; but do not gather earthly treasure, it will result in disappointment. Lay it up in heaven.

THE WANT OF THE WORLD.

It was not enticing words, it was not eloquence that Paul had. Why, he said his speech was contemptible! He did not profess to be an orator; but he preached Christ, the power of God and the wisdom of God, Christ and Him crucified. And this is what the whole world wants—Christ and Him crucified. And the world will perish for want of Christ. Let every man and woman that loves the Lord Jesus begin to publish the tidings of salvation. Talk to your neighbours and your friends. Run and speak to that young man! Talk to him of heaven and of the love of Christ! Tell him that you want to see him saved; and bear in mind this, that God is far more willing to bless us than we are to have Him. Let us then keep close to Christ.

ANSWERS TO PRAYER.

THE Scripture is full of such answers; every page of it encourages prayer. God will have us pray, and He will answer prayer. Surely we have all found out that in our own experience; if not it is our own fault. "The arm of the Lord is not shortened, that it cannot

save." It is our own prayers that are shortened, and that are weak and faithless. Oh, let us "ask in faith, nothing wavering." Some people are like the disciples in Jerusalem praying for the release of Peter; their prayers were answered, and Peter stood at the door, but they could not believe it; they said it must be his spirit. But oh! let us take God at His word. He says, "While they are yet speaking, I will answer." Is not that encouragement sufficient? He delights to hear our prayers, He will not weary with our often coming.

THE FAITH THAT SAVES.

SOMEBODY has said there are three things about faith—knowledge, assent, and laying hold; and that it is the last clause that is safe. Yes, it is not the knowledge. A great many people say, "I know Christ is able to save." They give their assent, and say, "I believe;" but that does not save. It is the last clause, the *laying hold*, that saves.

THE SPIRIT OF ELIJAH.

WHAT we want is the spirit of Elijah, and our God is the same as Elijah's God. It was in the power of prayer that he stood before Ahab; and what we want is to get hold of God in prayer, and to have power from heaven—not human power, but power from on high. And God is ready and willing to give us of that almighty power.

THE WAITING SAVIOUR.

"BEHOLD, I stand at the door, and knock," says the Saviour: "if any man will hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and sup with him, and he with Me." I beseech you open the door, and let the heavenly visitor in. Do not turn Him away any longer. Do not say with Felix, "Go thy way this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee." *Make this the convenient season; make this the day*

of your salvation. Receive the gift of God now, open the door of your heart, and say, "Welcome, thrice welcome into this heart of mine;" and Jesus will come. Do you invite Him, and see how quickly He will come. Nay, He *is* come. "The grace of God hath appeared, bringing salvation unto all men."

THE LOSS OF A SOUL.

OH! that the loss of a soul may arouse us, that we may know what it means! I believe the world is asleep, and the Church too. I do not believe there would be a dry eye if we could for five minutes get a glimpse of a lost soul. We mourn with men who have lost health; we pity them, we sympathize with them, and we say, "It is very sad." We mourn with men who have lost wealth, and we think it is very sad. But what is health, what is wealth, compared with the soul?

THE TWO PRAYERS.

WHO may use the prayer which Jesus taught to His disciples "Our Father which art in heaven"? Examine its context. The disciples, when alone with Jesus, said, "Lord, teach us to pray." And this was the answer they got; they were taught this precious prayer: "In this manner pray ye, Our Father which art in heaven." It was taught by Jesus to His chosen disciples; then it is only for Christians. No man who is unconverted can, or has any right to, pray thus. Christ taught *His disciples*, not all men, to pray like this. A man must be born again before he has any right to breathe this prayer. It is the second birth that makes us "sons of the living God." What right has any man living in sin and in open enmity with God to lift up his voice and say, "Our, or my, Father"?

"What shall I do, then?" cries some poor lost sinner; "I want to be saved, I want to find Christ, I want


to escape eternal judgment. What am I to do? I must pray." Yes, poor sinner, poor lost one, you may pray, but yours at present is a very different prayer from the Lord's Prayer. It is this, "God be merciful to me a sinner!"—"Lord, save me, I perish!"—"Have mercy on me, Thou Son of David!" These are the prayers for you, poor sinner. If you cry to God, "He will hear," He hath promised, and "faithful is He that hath promised." He will bend a willing ear to the voice of your supplication, He will save you. And then, washed in the blood of the Lamb, made clean and holy through His merits, clothed in the white robe of His righteousness, *then* you can pray, along with the rest of God's family, "Our Father which art in heaven."

YOU CAN BE SAVED IF YOU WILL.

OH! let the news flash into your soul, sinner, that you can be saved if you will. God is able to save. God is willing to save. God is waiting to save. Now, at this present time, make up your mind that you will be saved. Make up your mind that you will press into the kingdom. God invites you to come. He invites you to come just as you are. Listen to His gracious invitation,—"*Him that cometh unto Me I will in no wise cast out.*"

CHRISTIAN CONSISTENCY.

It is the duty of Christians to be about their Master's business, and to be the representatives of Christ on earth, for He is their representative in the court of heaven. The world watches with lynx eyes the conduct of professors, and if men observe that Christians do not reproduce in their actions the life of Christ, they conclude that religion is a fable and a myth, and devoid of all reality. But if the followers of Christ will be consistent in their walk, and mutually unite *in sympathy and combined effort*, the hosts of Satan *will fall before them*, discomfited and subdued.



THE STREAM AND THE FOUNTAIN.

A GREAT many people spend their time trying to make themselves better, which is like trying to make a stream pure when the fountain is bad. You may spend a great many years at that, my friends ; and you will be only losing your time at it after all. What you require is to make the fountain good, and then the stream will be pure. And in the same way, when the heart is right the life will be right. First make the tree good, and then the fruit will be good. Now the remedy for sin is Christ in the heart ; if He is in the heart, we have power within us to resist and overcome sin.

JESUS OUR ELDER BROTHER.

JESUS our elder Brother has gone before us, and is now above, preparing mansions for us, looking for us, expecting us. He is waiting to welcome home His own people. Oh ! it is sweet in an earthly place to have some one looking out for you, expecting you, longing for you ; and that is what makes heaven so sweet, so dear to us. He is there who hath bought us, who hath redeemed us with His own precious blood, who hath given Himself a ransom for us !

DYING WITHOUT HOPE.

It is terrible for a man to die outside the Ark. It is a terrible thing for a man to die without hope and without mercy, especially in this gospel land, where he is exalted to heaven with privileges, where the gospel is proclaimed faithfully from Sunday to Sunday, yea from day to day, and even from hour to hour. You say it is sad to see a man lose his wealth and become poor ; sad to see a man lose his reputation. But bear in mind, with respect to these there is hope. A man can come to Christ if he has lost his reputation and his character. Christ will "receive" men who have not got any reputation ; Christ will "receive" men who

have not got any character ; and they may have a seat in the kingdom of God. But if a man dies without God, then there is no hope ! You go to the grave and weep over it ; for the Star of Bethlehem will never shine over that grave !

GROWTH IN GRACE.

It is a mistaken notion for people to suppose that when they become saved, by accepting Christ, there will be nothing more for them to do, and no further provisions of divine grace for them to obtain. The reception of forgiveness through the blood of Christ, and justification by faith, are initiatory steps, which should be followed by continuous progress in the divine life, increasing conformity to the image of Christ, and daily growth in the knowledge and love of God.

HEAVEN HUSHED TO HEAR THE SINNER'S PRAYER.

THE moment that Bartimæus heard it was Jesus of Nazareth who was passing by, he began to cry out at the top of his voice, "Jesus, Thou Son of David, have mercy upon me !" Some of those who went before rebuked him, thinking the Master was going up to Jerusalem to be crowned king, and did not want to be distracted. Ah ! they never knew the Son of God when He was here. He would hush every harp in heaven to hear a sinner pray ; no music would delight Him so much. But the blind man lifted up his voice and cried still louder, "Thou Son of David, have mercy upon me !" And the prayer reached the ears of the Son of God—as prayer always will. They led the poor blind man to Him, and He gave to him his sight.

"OUR FATHER WHICH ART IN HEAVEN."

"OUR Father which art in heaven." Think of that word "ART." Yes, *our* Father is now at the present *moment in heaven*. It is no thing of the past—no old

story. No ; He is there *now*, making heaven bright with His presence, and glorious with the radiance of His majesty. He is there on high, waiting to bless and to save those who seek His salvation.

THE DRUNKARD'S HELL.

It is written in the Scriptures that "no drunkard shall inherit the kingdom of God." Is not that terrible ? Yet see the hundreds and thousands who are reeling their way down, not only to the drunkard's grave, but to the drunkard's hell. I would rather have a train run over my own son's body—I would rather have him die in early childhood, than have him grow up to manhood and die the drunkard's death, without God and without hope.

PATIENCE IN LABOUR.

CHRISTIAN workers should never be in a hurry ; they had better spend long care and anxiety over one soul to insure doing their work well. They need to remember they are working for eternity ; and it is a great and solemn thing to work for Christ ! We do not want to say Peace, peace, when there is no peace ; nor do we want time to be spent in arguments. I believe that is a work of the devil, to take off attention and cause delay. If a man comes to argue, we should go on our knees, pray with him, and then let him go. Job never fell until he got into an argument with his friends ; he could stand a scolding wife, and his boils, and other afflictions better than an argument. What we have to do is simply to point anxious souls to Christ ; and people should point out the way just as they find it in the Bible.

THE FEELINGS NO GUIDE.

I HEARD the other day in the inquiry-room, after they had prayed earnestly, a person saying to an inquirer, "Now do you feel happy ?" Oh ! the very

thing needed is to get inquirers away from their own feelings. God does not say anywhere, Do you feel this or that? The devil will change our feelings fifty times a day. No, we must just keep to the Bible. I believe that when a person is just coming up to the Rock of Ages, the devil sticks out a plank of feeling; and this may be considered the enemy's last resort.

HOW CHRIST VALUES THE SOUL.

THE loss of a soul! Christ knew what it meant. That is what brought Him from the bosom of the Father; that is what brought Him from the throne; that is what brought Him to Calvary! The Son of God was in earnest. When He died on Calvary it was to save a lost world; it was to save your soul and mine!

THE REMEDY FOR SIN.

WE cannot overcome sin ourselves,—that is the work of the Lord Jesus; but if I receive Christ, and He is in me “the hope of glory,” then I have a power in me that resists sin; and therefore, what I just have to do is to accept Christ in my heart. My life was forfeited in the first Adam, but I have got it again in the second Adam,—a life that will resist sin and overcome it. The moment I enter on this new life I put off the old man with his deeds, and put on the new man. But the great trouble is that men won't have the remedy; they won't understand it.

THE ALL-SUFFICIENCY OF CHRIST.

ON the night of the passover every man was to take a lamb for his house. “And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take it, according to the number of souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb.” The lamb was not too little for a household, but the household might be too little

for the lamb. So Christ is enough for every household, enough and to spare, and we ought earnestly to pray that salvation may come to every member of our households.

THE NEW BIRTH.

"God is a Spirit, and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth." And before a man can so worship God he must be born of God; he must be born of the Spirit. Then with this new birth, with this new life, he can serve God. Then the yoke is easy; then the burden is light. A man may as well try to fly as to serve God before he has been born of the Spirit. It is utterly impossible. The natural man is at enmity against God; his natural heart is at war with God; it always has been so, and it always will be. And not only that, but you cannot make it better. Somebody has said that God never mends, He creates anew. Therefore don't be trying to patch up the old Adam nature. God says, "It shall never come into My presence." Therefore God has just set it aside. But He tells us how we are to come into His presence, and how we are to get into His kingdom; and this is worthy to be borne in mind. You cannot educate men into God's kingdom. That is what the world is trying to do. But he that climbeth up by some other way than the Lord's way the same is a thief and a robber. You had better be born into it in God's way.

A TESTIMONY WORTH STRIVING FOR.

"My boy," said a father to his dying son, "do you know you are dying, may die to-day?" The boy looked up in his father's loving face: "Dying am I? Is this dying? Shall I die to-night?" The father was weeping for his son, the great tears rolling down his cheeks. "Oh, father, don't weep for me; don't cry, father. When I die I am going to heaven, and when I get there I will go right up to Jesus, and tell

Him that it was through you I came there." Ah, my friends, I'd rather have my son bear a testimony like that to the throne of God than have all the riches, all the wealth, all the gold, or all the jewels this world ever saw—yes, ten thousand times rather! I'd rather have my son an heir of the kingdom of heaven, and joint heir with Christ, than have him heir of the grandest and proudest monarch the world ever knew. "Heir of God, and joint heir with Christ." Ah! that's an inheritance worth having, and it's what God offers to us.

Oh, fathers! oh, mothers! see that your children's names are written in heaven. Never mind whether they are written in this world's books or not; get them written up there in heaven, and then you'll have them bearing up to Jesus a testimony like what that son did. Is not that worth striving for?

TO EVERY MAN HIS WORK.

CHRISTIAN people often ask me, "What is the work I am called upon to do?" The first work of all is to believe on Him whom God hath sent. First of all we must be saved by faith in Christ, and then work not *for* salvation, but *from* salvation. There is no doubt that every believer can find something to do for Christ, if he is thoroughly in earnest, and ready to do that work to which God calls him. There is a peculiarity in the phraseology of Scripture, that God gives to every man not merely *work*, or *a work*, but *his* work.

MAN SAFER OUT OF EDEN.

God put a lamp of promise into Adam's hand before He drove him out of Eden, for He said, "The seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent's head." Did you ever think what a terrible state of things it would be if man were allowed to live for ever in his lost, ruined state? It was from love to Adam that God drove him out of Eden, that he should not live

for ever. For this God put the cherubim there with a flaming sword. But now Christ has taken the sword out of his hand, and opened wide the gate, so that we can come in and eat. Adam might have been in Eden ten thousand years, and then been led astray by Satan; but now "our life is hid with Christ in God." So that man is safer with the second Adam out of Eden than with the first man in Eden.

HOW TO CARRY ON THE WORK.

"SHOULD Christian workers work beyond their strength?" I say No. But I do not think, as a general rule, you have to urge people not to work too hard. Still, it is better to wear out than to rust out. I know people to whom a little work has been as good as medicine. I know one man who did not think he could preach a sermon a week, and now he is preaching every day. If you think you are working too hard, just cast your burden on the Lord, and you will be able to carry as much again as before. Be of good courage, and God will use you; and do not discourage others by doleful lamentations and lectures. It is a good deal better for Christians to say, "Let *us* do it," than to say, "*You* do it."

STUDY THE BIBLE.

If you wish to possess love for God's word, study it diligently, and so become like an artesian well—over flowing with the water of life to refresh thirsty souls.

SATAN AT CHURCH.

A GREAT many people think they have been born again because they go to church. They say, "Oh! yes, I am a Christian; I go to church every Sabbath." Let me say here that there is no one that goes to church so regularly as Satan. He is always there before the minister, and he is the last one out of the church.

There is not a church or a chapel, but he is a regular attendant of it. The idea that he is only down in the slums and lanes and alleys, is a false idea. The idea that he is only in public-houses—I will confess I think he is there, and that he is doing his work very well,—but to think that he is only there is a false idea. He is wherever the word is preached ; it is his business to be there and catch away the seed. He is with each and all. Some of you may go to sleep, but he won't. Some of you may not listen to the sermon, but he will. He will be watching, and when the seed is just entering into some heart, he will go and try to catch it away. May God rebuke Satan, and may the word of God fall deep into the hearts of many !

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.

WE ought to shine in this dark world as lights set upon a hill that cannot be hid. Christ is the true Light, and came to give light. But the world loved darkness and crucified Him, and thus strove to extinguish that light. Our Lord now says to us, "Ye are the light of the world." Let us then shine for Jesus who lives in us.

WOMEN'S WORK IN THE CHURCH.

I BELIEVE the best talent of our church lies dormant. We want the very best of our Christian ladies for missionaries. I was for many years a missionary, and visited from house to house. I always found the women at home and the men out, and I was often looked at in a strange manner, and I always used to think how much better a lady could do that kind of work. We want the very best female talent to work in visiting wives and daughters, and to get up little cottage prayer meetings. Let one lady missionary have about one hundred families. I believe the battle has *got to be fought* out in the homes of the working

classes. We have got to carry the spirit of the Gospel to the people, and not be merely content with opening the church doors and saying, "If you stay out you will be lost." When the Son of man came, He came to seek and to save that which was lost; and if it is true that nine-tenths of the mechanics of England do not attend any church, it is time the Gospel was taken to them. A woman is ten times better qualified for this work than a man.

THE A.B.C. OF GOD'S ALPHABET.

"EXCEPT a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God," much less inherit it. He can't even get a glimpse of the kingdom of God except he be born again. I believe this to be the most important subject that will ever come before us in this world. I don't believe there is any truth in the whole Bible so important as this truth which is brought out in the third chapter of the Gospel of St. John. It is the A B C of God's alphabet. If a man is unsound on regeneration, he is unsound on everything. That is really the foundation-stone; and we must get the foundation right. If we do not, what is the good of trying to build a house? Now Christ says plainly, "*Except a man be born again.*"

EASY ARITHMETIC.

If I am a child of God, and yet make an idol of my money, of my gifts, of my time, or of anything in this world, then I shall be sure to lose it. God will take it away in love to me—although I won't think it love at the time. But if I work for God, if I spend money, gifts, time, everything I have for Him, then I lay it up in heaven, and that's a very good bank. It won't fail, and I shall have a whole eternity to enjoy it. I shall have it there when I go. This is arithmetic which any one can understand.

THE TOKEN OF THE ATONING BLOOD.

It is the blood of Christ that saves the weakest and the strongest. When Death came that passover night into Egypt with his sword, he entered the palace of the prince, and went into the houses of the great and mighty, and they all had to pay tribute to death; for the firstborn throughout Egypt was smitten down that night. The only thing that kept death out was death itself. The only way that death can be met is by death. I have sinned, and must die, or get some one to die for me. The great question is, Have you got the token? If death should come after any one of us to-night, are we sheltered behind Jesus' blood? That is the point. It is that precious blood that atones. Not any good resolutions, or prayers, or position in society, or what we have done, but what has been done by another. God looks for the token.

GOD'S MEASURE OF BLESSING.

READ the 103rd Psalm, and mark how the Psalmist bids us "forget not all His benefits." Some one has said we cannot remember them all, but we must not forget them all—they are too numerous to keep them all in mind, but let us keep some of them in mind. Observe five things in the 3rd, 4th, and 5th verses of this psalm:—(1) "He forgiveth all thine iniquities," (2) "He healeth all thy diseases," (3) "He redeemeth thy life from destruction." (4) "He crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies." But there are very many crowned heads that are still not satisfied. God, therefore, does more,—(5) "He satisfieth thy soul." What more can we have than that?

THE GREATEST INSULT TO GOD.

It is considered you cannot offer a man a greater insult than to tell him he is a liar. Now, unbelief is telling *God He is a liar*. And is there any reason why you

should not believe in God? Has God ever broken His word? I will defy any infidel to put his finger on any promise God has ever made to man that He has not kept. I can show you for 6,000 years how the devil has lied, and how he has broken every promise he has made. What a lie he told Adam and Eve! And yet I can find a thousand men who will believe one of the devil's lies quicker than I can find one man that believes God's truth. Men like to believe lies, but when it gets to real truth, then how few will believe the word of God! Why should not every man and woman have faith in God? Why should not every one put confidence in Him now, and trust God to save them? And let me say, if you are ever saved you will have to come to this one point of trusting to God for salvation. You never will be saved until you put your trust and confidence in God. Look at what is written (John iii. 33), "He that hath received His testimony hath set to his seal that God is true."

THE ENEMY UNBELIEF.

THE greatest enemy of God and man is unbelief. Christ found it on both sides of the cross. It was the very thing that put Him to death. The Jews did not believe Him, they took Him to Calvary and murdered Him; they did not believe God had sent Him, and so they murdered Him. And the first thing we find after He got up out of the grave was unbelief again. Thomas, one of His own disciples, did not believe He had risen. Jesus said, "Thomas, feel these wounds" and Thomas did, and believed and said, "My Lord and my God!" Now, those Christians that have learnt to trust God in past years, will bear me out in this, that the more they know of God, the more they feel like trusting Him. Why? Because they have found God to be true. When man has failed, God never has failed; and when every one else has disappointed them, God *has* proved true.

JUST WHAT GOD WANTS.

SOME Christians say, I should like to work, but I have no talent, no opportunity. Do not talk like that. Say out honestly, I have no disposition to work—so little grace in my heart. Or perhaps you say, you are too weak. Do you really think so? This is just what is wanted—just what God desires. Weak worm! weak worm! weak worm! it's *you* that God wants. He wants you to do His work *because you are weak*: you, being weak and knowing it, and believing it, God can work in you, and by you, and have the glory. He is a jealous God, and will have the glory. Do you think He will give you that glory which He claims as His special prerogative? He says, *I will not give My glory to another.*

THE OUTWARD LOOK OF FAITH.

FAITH has an outward look, not an inward one. Hundreds of people spend time in looking at their own hearts, but Faith's is an outward look. We are to have faith in God, and not in man. A great many people place their faith in men, and they pin their faith to other people's doctrines and creeds. There are a great many who believe what the Church believes; but they do not know what the Church believes. If their church teaches it, they believe it. But all the churches in the world cannot save a soul. It is not to have faith in this church or that church, this doctrine or that doctrine, this man or that man; but it is to have faith in the Man Christ Jesus at the right hand of God. That is the only faith that will ever save the soul.

SOUL-WINNERS.

I NEVER knew any one who began to feel the luxury of leading souls to Christ who wanted to leave off; and I never knew any one try to save souls who could do it *without looking to the Lord.*

"MORE TO FOLLOW."

THERE is an anecdote told about Rowland Hill, that he had in his congregation a rich and a poor man. The man of wealth was touched with commiseration for the poverty-stricken circumstances of his poorer neighbour, and entrusted Rowland Hill with £100 to minister relief to his necessities. Mr. Hill, who was gifted with considerable shrewdness, knew that it would be injudicious to give all the £100 at once, therefore he began by sending £5, with the words, *more to follow*. Now which was the man most likely to be pleased with, the £5, or the, promise *more to follow*, which opened to his expectation the vista of still greater supplies of money in the future? We can scarcely doubt but that the words of promise proved the strongest cordial and solace to him in his indigence. Thus we need continually fresh supplies of God's grace to uphold us in our Christian warfare and pilgrimage, even after we have passed from under condemnation, and have received everlasting life.

NECESSITY OF THE NEW BIRTH.

"EXCEPT a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." I often rejoice Christ did not say this to that woman at the well, nor to that woman who was a sinner. If He had said it to them, people would have said, "Oh, that poor woman needed to be converted; but I am a moral character, I do not need to be converted. Regeneration will do for harlots, thieves, and drunkards, but we, who are moral, do not need it." But who did Christ say this to? He said it to Nicodemus. Who was he? He belonged to the house of bishops. He would have been a bishop if he had been here. Nicodemus stood very high; he was one of the church dignitaries; he stood as high as any man in Jerusalem, except the high priest himself. He belonged to the seventy rulers of the Jews; he was a

doctor of divinity, and taught the law. There is not one word of Scripture against him ; he was a man that stood out before the whole nation as of pure and spotless character. And what does Christ say to him ? "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." I can imagine I can see a scowl on his forehead. He says, "What do you mean by being born again—born from above—born of the Spirit ? Now I am old, can I a second time enter my mother's womb, and be born ?" Jesus saith, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water, and of the Spirit, he cannot see the kingdom of God." He did not take back what He had said, but He just repeated it—"Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." And Nicodemus was like tens of thousands of men to-day. The moment you talk to them about regeneration or conversion, there is a scowl on their forehead. They say, "I don't understand it." Of course the natural man does not understand spiritual things. It is a matter of revelation. May God reveal Himself to your soul.

THROW OUT THE BALLAST.

WHEN men go up in a balloon, they carry with them what they call ballast, that is, small bags of sand, and when they want to rise higher they just throw out some of the sand. So we, if we want to rise nearer heaven, must just throw out some of the sand, and cast aside every weight. We won't rise higher till we do so.

THE BAPTISM OF THE SPIRIT.

GOD is waiting to glorify Himself in you and by you. If you want to work for God effectively, you must get Him to qualify you. No man can qualify *himself*—no man can qualify another. Have you *received the baptism* of the Holy Spirit ? Seek it in

earnest prayer and faith, and you will find it. You must have the baptism of the Holy Ghost in order to be a successful worker for Christ. Ask then with prayerful importunity for it to be bestowed upon you.

HOPE FOR THE DRUNKARD.

THE poor, poor drunkard ! When he comes into his house, his children listen, and hear by the foot-fall that their father is coming home drunk ; and the little things run away and hide from him as if he were some horrid demon. His wife begins to tremble. Many a time has that great, strong arm been brought down on her weak, defenceless body. Many a day has she carried about marks from that man's violence. He ought to be her protector, support, and stay ; but he has become her tormentor. His home is like hell upon earth ; there is no joy there. But every such one may hear the good news that he can receive a new nature from heaven, that he can receive the Spirit of God. God can give him power to hurl the infernal cup from him. God will give him grace, if he asks for it, to trample Satan under his feet, and the drunkard will then become a sober man.

Go to that house three months hence, and you find it neat and clean. As you draw near that home you will hear singing ; not the song of a drunkard,—that is gone ; all things have become new. He has been born of God, and is singing one of the songs of Zion :—

“ Rock of ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee.”

Or perhaps he is singing that good old hymn that his mother taught him when he was a little boy,—

“ There is a fountain filled with blood,
Drawn from Immanuel's veins ;
And sinners plunged beneath that flood
Lose all their guilty stains.”

He has become a child of God, an heir of heaven.

His children are climbing up his knee, and he has his arms round their neck. That dark home is now changed into a little Bethel on earth. God dwells there now. Yes, God has done all that, and that is regeneration. May God convert the poor drunkard! Christians, lift up your hearts for the poor drunkard. If such will try to lead a better life, One mighty to save, Christ the Lord, will give them the victory; for strong as drink may be, Christ's grace is stronger.

THE GREATNESS OF LITTLE WORKS.

NEVER shrink from undertaking any work for Christ because it may seem insignificant or lowly. Those brought up in fashionable society, as it is termed, generally like to ally themselves with great affairs, and disdain those little works, the performance of which God so much delights to behold. Alas! that there are those among Christians who care not to stretch forth the hand of charity to endeavour to elevate the neglected and degraded, whose misfortune it may be more than their fault that they are wandering in the ways of sin "The poor," says Christ, "have ye always with you."

SLAVES SET FREE.

I WAS in Richmond, in the South American States, when General Grant entered that city and proclaimed the abolition of slavery. Never did I witness a scene of rejoicing like it. When one of the leading speakers among the slaves delivered an oration to two thousand of them, assuring them that parents would no longer have their children torn away to be doomed to oppressive servitude; that husbands and wives would no longer be sent to the auction mart to be ruthlessly separated; and that their young men and maidens would no more be sold like lifeless goods and chattels to the *highest bidder*; but that the birthright of liberty, of

which they had been so long defrauded, was now restored;—their shouts of rejoicing and exclamations of gladness re-echoed through the building, and baffled all powers of description. And so the jubilee trumpet of the Gospel now proclaims spiritual liberty and life to Satan's slaves, through faith in Christ, and the application to the sinner's heart of His purifying blood.

THE ABIDING VIRTUE.

"AND now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." Love is the greatest of God's gifts, and of all the Christian virtues. I don't think we shall require faith when we get to heaven. Before the throne of God we shall walk by sight, and not by faith. Nor will we need hope there, as we shall have attained to the full measure of possession. Faith and hope will be past, but love will still reign. Therefore love is called the greatest. Oh, may God give us this grace of love, and fill our hearts full of His own heavenly and divine love!

THE GREAT DELUSION OF OUR DAY.

WE are living in very strange days. Some people tell us it does not make any difference what a man believes in if he is only sincere. One church is just as good as another if you are only sincere. No greater delusion ever came out of the pit of hell than that! It is ruining more souls at the present time than anything else. I never read of any men more sincere, or more earnest, than those men at Mount Carmel, the false prophets of Baal. They were terribly in earnest. Some people say, "Why, if men are holding, as you say, error, why should they be so in earnest?" Those prophets of Baal were the most earnest men I ever read of. You do not read of men getting so in earnest now that they take knives and cut themselves. Look at them leaping upon their altars; hear their cry, "O Baal! O Baal!"

hear us." We never hear that kind of prayer now. They acted like madmen. They were terribly in earnest; yet did God hear their cry? They were all slain. You say, "I believe one religion is just as good as another, if you are only sincere in what you believe." It is one of the devil's lies! Have faith in God, not in man. I don't care how good a man is, don't you put your faith in him. His breath departs from him, he dies, and where is your help? Our God never dies, our God never will disappoint us if we put our faith in Him.

THE UNSEEN GLORIES.

"UNLESS a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." There are many lands you can voyage to and see; but the land of Beulah your uncircumcised eye shall never see, unless you are saved. You may see ten thousand things in this world, you may see all the great cities in this world; but there is one city your uncircumcised eye shall never rest upon unless you are saved,—the City with gates of pearl, whose builder and maker is God. You may go to the Tower of London and see the crown of England, and you may glory in the sight; but the crown of life, which fadeth not away, your uncircumcised eye shall never rest upon, unless you are born again.

It is God that says it: "Unless a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of heaven." You may see the throne of England and all its splendour; but that great white throne on which the Lamb that was slain shall sit, your uncircumcised eye shall never see, unless you are washed in His blood. You may see many beautiful rivers in this world; but there is one river that flows by the throne of God, which your uncircumcised eye shall never rest upon, and none save those who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb shall walk upon the banks of that crystal stream.

It is God that says it: "Unless a man be born again, *he cannot see the kingdom of God.*" You may cross

the Atlantic and journey across America, and look upon those trees that have been growing there for centuries—many a man makes a long pilgrimage to look upon those trees;—but there is one tree which your uncircumcised eye shall never rest upon unless you are saved,—the tree which grows in the midst of the paradise of God, bearing twelve manner of fruits, and its leaves are for the healing of the nations. You may see the princes of this world; you may see them walking down the thronging streets; but the Prince of glory you shall never see, except when He comes to judge the world, with an iron rod in His hand. You may see the kings of this world in all their pomp and all their pride; but the King of kings you shall never behold in His glory, unless you are born again.

THE PRICE OF SALVATION.

BEAR in mind that although salvation is as free as the air we breathe, it cost God the richest jewel He had in His possession—it cost Him the Son of His bosom.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE HEART.

ALTHOUGH when people have their photographs taken they send them by post to their friends, it is not likely if they could have their hearts photographed they would send them by post also. There is not a sound spot in the heart of man. The old Adam stock is bad and wicked. Job thought at one time he was a very good man, and probably he would be a popular man in these days. But Job ceased to talk and think so well of himself when he was asked a few questions by God.

SELF-GLORIFICATION.

I MADE a discovery the other day that humbled me very much. In Mark ix. 31—35, we find that Christ had been telling His disciples of His coming sufferings and death; they understood not the saying, and were

afraid to ask more particularly. But what do we next find them occupying themselves about? Why, as to who shall be greatest among themselves. Again, in Mark x. 33, Christ tells them of His coming sufferings. The disciples are no doubt deeply impressed; well they may be, though they did not show it in their demeanour. But immediately after Jesus had finished His sayings, up came James and John, the sons of Zebedee. "What do you desire I should do for you?" inquired the Master of them. "That we may be the greatest!" Ah! the same proud, selfish spirit. Then lastly, in Luke xxii. 10—26, we find after that solemn scene, the institution of the Lord's Supper, when Jesus had been talking of the events about to happen, "there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest." There is the sad discovery, that no less than three times Jesus had been talking of His sufferings, betrayal, and death, and His disciples were talking about which should be the greatest. The same spirit of strife and self-glorying is frequently to be seen even in these days. This spirit of "who shall be the greatest?" is still one of the greatest hindrances to the Church of God to-day—the endeavour to win for ourselves honour and esteem. God grant us all grace to rise above this petty feeling of self-glorification.

SALVATION NOT OF ORDINANCES.

BAPTISM has nothing to do with salvation; no more has the Lord's Supper. I say nothing against them, both are right in their place, but neither is necessary for salvation. A man might be dead and buried before he could either be baptized or take the Lord's Supper, and yet be saved. Is a proof wanted? Look at the last man that Christ saved before He died on the cross. I have an idea that He just saved that man to establish this glorious truth. The man could not work for salvation; His hands and feet were nailed to the cross.

He received it as a free gift. They could not nail his mind or his heart, and his heart laid hold on Christ, and he cried, "Lord, remember me when Thou comest into Thy kingdom." Did Christ say that when He was baptized He would save him, or when he had taken the Lord's Supper he would save him? There he was hanging between heaven and earth. It was impossible. The gracious answer came at once, "This day shalt thou be with Me in paradise." In the morning a felon; in the evening he was walking in the paradise of God with his Saviour. There was no baptism and no Lord's Supper, and neither was necessary for salvation.

SALVATION NOT OF THE LAW.

THE law never saved a man yet: the law was given that man might see how evil he was; it does not save, but makes men see their own sinfulness. "For there is no difference," none between lords, dukes, or beggars. The ministers of the gospel and the greatest drunkards that walk the streets of London are the same. The law is like a scythe that cuts them all down. It is only through Christ men can be saved.

THE PROOF OF CONVERSION.

WHEN a man is converted, he wants to tell some one else. I wouldn't give much for a man who is not anxious to see others saved. The first words that are recorded to have fallen from the lips of Christ were, "Wist ye not that I must be about My Father's business?" Yes, and Christians must have that spirit. Wist ye not I must be up to the rescue and save some soul?

GOD ABOVE REASON.

"I CAN'T comprehend Christianity, I don't understand the philosophy of it." That's how men talk now-a-days. But my God is above reason, and if you will not be saved till you can reason out who God is, I am afraid you will never be saved at all.

THE WORTH OF GOOD RESOLVES.

"I wish you would tell us how we are to become Christians," is the language of many, "for you say that we cannot be Christians by trying to do good and by making new resolutions." Ah! many a time you have resolved to turn over a new leaf, and you may now form another good resolution. But if you do, you will break it. I would not give a fig for all your resolutions. What are you going to do? If it is a new birth which it is necessary for you to have, you cannot create life. Can you bring life to a dead fly? All the wise men in the world cannot do it. God alone is the Author of life; and if you have a new birth, it must be God's work. You cannot save yourself. There is a man dying,—can you put new life into him? Or can you raise up a dead body by saying, "Young man, arise"? No, that is the work of God alone. Your soul is dead in trespasses and sin. May the Lord Jesus Christ speak life to it. God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And if He says, "Let there be life," there will be life.

THE DUTY OF THANKSGIVING.

WE often set apart seasons and have meetings for prayer; I think it would be well for us to have special seasons also for thanksgiving, to praise God for what He is doing in our midst. Let those who have been redeemed from the hand of the enemy speak not of themselves, but of what God has done for them.

THE TOUCHSTONE OF LOVE.

THE thirteenth chapter of 1st Corinthians, is one of those chapters we ought to read very often. I think there are some chapters in the Bible we ought to read on our knees, and this is one of them. What a lesson we learn from the very first verses! Though we

speak with tongues, though we give our goods to the poor, though we do this and that, it is no good unless we have charity. A good deal of our work goes for nought; much of our talk is like the wind—empty; there's nothing in it, it is like "sounding brass." Again, "Charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up." One of our greatest opponents in the spiritual life is the proud spirit of emulation—the inquiry, Who shall be the greatest? How that spirit has marred the church of God! and, alas! it is no new spirit.

JOINING THE CHURCH.

THERE is a class of people professing Christianity that say, "I became a Christian when I joined the church—the day when I united with the church." Oh, but that is not being born again. What has that to do with the new birth—being united with the church on earth? There are a great many united with the church who are on their way to death and ruin. A great many have no hope of eternal life who, yet, are members of the church. One of the twelve whom Christ chose to follow Him turned out a hypocrite and a traitor; he was not loyal to Christ at heart. My friends, do not just build your hope of heaven upon some profession of your faith, but bear in mind that hope must depend upon your being born of God.

TEMPTATION AND THE TEMPTED.

WHEN Christians find themselves exposed to temptation they should pray to God to uphold them, and when they are tempted they should not be discouraged. It is not a sin to be tempted; the sin is to fall into temptation.

THE YOUNG CONVERT'S THREE ENEMIES.

THE three great enemies of young converts, which they will carry to their graves with them, are the

world, the flesh, and the devil. But if they have three great enemies, they have three wonderful, all-powerful, all-loving friends—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost ; and if they keep close to these friends, and look to them, they will have the victory day and night.

THE SWORD OF THE WORD.

ALL the men who have been very much used of God have been well versed in the Scriptures. Moses rehearsed God's dealings with the children of Israel ; Peter told it out on the day of Pentecost, and Stephen did the same. Christ conquered Satan by the sword of the Word.

THE SHEPHERD AND THE LAMBS.

I SOMETIMES meet people who are nourishing hard, bitter feelings against God because they have been afflicted. A mother said to me the other day, " God has been unjust to me ; He has come and taken my child away." Is it so, dear afflicted mothers ? Rather has not God removed your children to a pure and happy life ? You may not understand it now, but you will understand it by and by. He wants to lead you up there also.

A friend of mine, who had been in Eastern lands, told me he once saw a shepherd who wanted his flock to cross a river. He went into the water himself and called them, but no, they would not follow him into the water. What did he do ? Why, he girded up his loins, and lifting a little lamb under each arm, plunged right into the stream, and crossed it without even looking back. When he lifted the lambs, the old sheep looked up into his face and began to bleat for them ; but when he plunged into the water the dams plunged in after him, and then the whole flock followed. When they got to the other side he put down the lambs, and they were quickly joined by their mothers, and there

was a happy meeting. My friend says he noticed that the pastures on the other side were much better, and the fields greener; and on this account the shepherd was leading them across. And our great Palestine Shepherd does that. Your child, whom he has taken from the earth, is but removed to the green pastures of Canaan, and the Shepherd means to draw your hearts out after it, to teach you to "set your affections on things above." When he takes away your children, accept it as a call to look upward and beyond. Mother, weeping bitter tears for your little one, do not weep! Your child has gone to the place where there is neither weeping nor sorrow. Would you have it return? Surely never.

THE FAITHFUL PROMISER.

GOD is always true to what he promises to do. He made promises to Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Joshua, &c., and did He not fulfil them? He will fulfil every word of what He has promised; yet how few take Him at His word! When I was a young man I was clerk in the establishment of a man in Chicago, whom I observed frequently occupied sorting and marking bills. He explained to me what he had been doing; on some notes he had marked B, on some D, and on others G; those marked B he told me were bad, those marked D meant they were doubtful, and those with G on them meant they were *good*; and, said he, you must treat all of them accordingly. And thus people endorse God's promises, by marking some as bad and others as doubtful; whereas we ought to take all of them as *good*, for He has never once broken His word, and all that He says He will do, will be done in the fulness of time.

THE UNLIMITED PROMISE.

THE Lord Jesus Christ has said, in the 14th chapter of John, "And greater works than these shall ye do." Is that true? Then we ought to expect great things.

Christ himself is willing, for He has said, "Whatsoever ye ask the Father in My name, that will I do." Let us ask the Father, then, and ask for Christ's sake, not our own; and in doing so let us not forget that if we regard iniquity in our heart, the Lord will not hear us. If God gave His own Son to the world, what will He not give to His children?

CHRISTIANS MUST BE WORKERS.

EVERY Christian, whether young or old, rich or poor, high or low, learned or illiterate, may do something for Christ, and ought to do something. For indolence in Christians there is no excuse, for neutrality there is no room.

YOUNG CONVERTS KEPT BY GOD.

I HAVE great hopes of the young converts—not when I look at them and think what they are, but when I look into the Bible and find what God has promised regarding them. Take the passage, Romans xiv., verse 4, and remember that it is the word of the living God, and then see if there is not ground for confidence.—"He shall be holden up, for God is able to make him stand." Is not the great God who keeps this world able to keep them until that day when He shall present them faultless before His throne? When I was converted I thought I had to keep myself and Christ too. It was a long time before I found out that it was God who had to keep me. A great many converts are asked if they have got Christ. It would be better to ask if Christ has got them. It is the work of the shepherd to keep his sheep, and to take care of them.


THE WORM THAT DIETH NOT.

I BELIEVE memory is the worm that will make hell so terrible. I was drowning once, and just as I was going down the third time I was rescued. In the

twinkling of an eye my whole life came flashing across my mind. I cannot tell you how it was, I cannot tell you how a whole life can be crowded into a second of time; but everything I had done from my earliest childhood, it all came flashing across me. And I believe that when God touches the secret spring of memory, every one of our sins will come back; and if they have not been blotted out by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, they will haunt us as eternal ages roll on. We talk about our forgetting; but we cannot forget if God says, "Remember." We talk about the recording angel keeping the record of our life. I have an idea when we get to heaven, or into eternity, we shall find that recording angel has been ourselves. God will make every one of us keep our own record; these memories will keep the record; and when God shall say, "Son, remember," it will all flash across our mind. It won't be God that will condemn us, it will be ourselves; we shall condemn ourselves, and we shall stand before God speechless. By and by God shall change our countenance, and He will send us away to read our own biography, to read our own record, and that will be what will condemn us.

JUSTIFICATION MORE THAN PARDON.

CHRIST was raised from the grave for the justification of all who put their trust in Him, and such are not only pardoned men but justified men. Justification is more than pardon. It is said of an emperor of Russia, that he sent on one occasion for two noblemen who were charged with some conspiracy, and one he found to be perfectly innocent, so he sent him home justified; but the other was proved guilty, yet was pardoned. They both returned to their homes; but ever afterwards they would stand very differently in the estimation of their Sovereign and neighbours. From that may be seen the difference between pardon and justification. When a man is justified he can go



through the world with his head erect. Satan may come to him and say, "You are a sinner;" but the reply would be, "I know that, but God has forgiven me through Christ."

THE BIBLE THE CHRISTIAN'S VADE MECUM.

FOR a number of years I have made a rule not to read any book that does not help me to understand the Word of God. I am a greater slave to my Bible than any man is to strong drink, and it does me a great deal more good too. If I go into a meeting without my Bible, I feel lonesome, and don't know what to do. But if I have got it, I am ready to get up and talk on any subject. Every Christian ought to have a good Bible—not so good that he is afraid to mark it—also a Cruden's Concordance, and a Scripture text-book—not a *birth-day* text-book, but a *Scripture* text-book.

SATAN VANQUISHED BY CHRIST.

SATAN is stronger than any child of earth, and there is no match for him but Christ. The Lion of Calvary—the Lion of the tribe of Judah—He alone is stronger than the lion of hell. When Christ on Calvary said, "It is finished!" it was the shout of the conqueror over a vanquished enemy.

FIRST LOVED, THEN WASHED FROM SIN.

MANY people try to come to Christ, but think they cannot come unless they first become good. But Jesus loves His people even before their sins are washed away. He loves them, and then washes them in His own blood, as it is written, "Unto Him that loved us, and washed us in His own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and His Father; to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever." Oh! it is wonderful love. To think that He loves them first,

and then washes them in His blood free from their sins ! There is no devil in hell that can pluck them out of His hand. They are perfectly safe, for they are washed in the blood of the Lamb.

CHRIST THE ONLY SAVIOUR.

WE have all, everyone of us, tried to reform, and, as we call it, turn over a new leaf. Yes, we have all resolved at one time or another, that we would both be and do better. And it has so happened that the more we have resolved and tried, the worse we have become. Yes, that is the experience of everyone who has tried to save *himself* ; and you might just as well try to leap from the earth to the moon as try to serve God of yourselves. It is utterly impossible that a man can serve God until Christ is in him the hope of glory. God knew what this sin-cursed earth needed and so He sent the message, "Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, for unto you is born in the city of David a *Saviour*." And if the world does not receive Christ as a Saviour it is not God's fault. God gave Him, and if man rejects Him he must abide the consequences.

THE TOUCH OF THE SAVIOUR'S HAND.

LET me ask you, poor backslider, did you ever feel the touch of Jesus' hand ? If so, you will know it again, for there is love in it. There is a story told in connection with our war, of a mother who received a despatch that her boy was mortally wounded. She immediately went down to the front, for she knew that the soldiers told off to watch the sick and wounded could not watch her boy as she would. So she went to the doctor and said, "Would you let me take care of my boy ?" The doctor said, "He has just gone to sleep, and if you go to him the surprise will be so great it may be dangerous to him. He is in a very

critical state. I will break the news to him gradually." "But" said the mother, "he may never wake up. I should so dearly like to see him." Oh! how she longed to see him. Finally the doctor said, "Well, you can see him, but if you wake him up and he dies, it will be your fault." "I will not wake him up," she said, "if I may only go by his dying cot and see him." She went to the side of the cot. Her eyes had longed to see him, and as she gazed upon him she could not keep her hand off that pallid forehead, and she laid it gently there. There was love and sympathy in her touch, and the moment the slumbering boy felt it he said, "Oh! mother, have you come?" He knew there was sympathy and affection in the touch of that hand. And if you, oh! sinner, will but let Jesus reach out His hand and touch your heart, you, too, will find there is sympathy and love in the Saviour's touch.

CHRISTIANS NO LONGER THEIR OWN.

WHAT a wonderful passage is that, "Who gave Himself for us," *Gave Himself for us?* How it ought to fire every Christian's heart! How it ought to wake us up! Talk about waking up the churches, why, it seems as if the love of Christ ought to set us all on fire! And see what it further says: "That He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." Now if Christ has redeemed us with His own blood, then we no longer belong to ourselves, but we belong to Him; and, therefore, we cannot live to please ourselves, but to please Him.

FOOD FOR THE SOUL.

THE children of Israel were to eat of the passover lamb:—"And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste, it is the Lord's

passover." The reason why many Christians have not got more power is because they do not feed on the Lamb; and this is why there are so many weak Christians. The Lamb of God not only atones for our sins, but we are to feed upon the Lamb. We have got a wilderness journey before us, as the children of Israel had. After we are saved we are to feed upon Christ; He is the true bread from heaven. If I do not feed this soul with the true bread from heaven I shall become sickly, and shall not have power to go and work for Christ. And that is the reason, I believe, why so few in the Church have power. Some people seem to think that if they get one glimpse of Christ it is enough. Many think much of their dinner; why should not God's children think a good deal of their spiritual food? We should no more think of laying in spiritual food to last for ten years than we should bodily food. A good many Christians are living on stale manna.

HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE.

"How am I to understand the word of God?" By *studying* it with the help of the Holy Ghost. As an American bishop said, not with the blue light of Presbyterianism, nor the red light of Methodism, nor the violet light of Episcopacy, but with the *clear* light of Calvary. We must study it on our knees, in a teachable spirit. If we know our Bible, Satan will not have much power over us, and we shall have the world under our feet.

CHRIST OUR REDEEMER.

THE Lord Jesus not only saves us, but He redeems us—that is, buys us back. Thus He ransoms us from the power of sin. Not only does He save us from spiritual death, but He redeems us for ever, so that death can never touch us.

GOD USING HUMAN INSTRUMENTALITY.

IF I have read my Bible aright, most of those whose conversion is recorded in the New Testament—with the exception of the Day of Pentecost, when there was a great gain of five thousand—have been brought to Christ by individual effort. God generally converts men by the aid of some human instrument.

SPURNING THE REMEDY.

A MAN said to me not long ago, "Do you think there is any justice in my being condemned because a man sinned six thousand years ago? I don't believe a word of it." Now let me say, there will be no one lost on account of Adam's sin. But I hear some one say, "That's a plain contradiction. You have said we would be, and now you tell me we shall not be."

Let me see if I can illustrate it. Suppose I am dying of some terrible disease, say consumption, and I am given up by the physicians, who say I must die; I am in the last stage of consumption, in a few days I shall be in the grave. But there comes a man whom I have known for years, and he says, "You are a dying man!" I say to him, "I know it; I don't want any one to tell me that." He says to me, "But there is a remedy." I say, "I don't believe there's any remedy; I have tried all the leading physicians, and they say there is no hope."

"I tell you there is a remedy!" says he; "twenty years ago I was as far gone as yourself, and I was given up by all the physicians to die, but I took that medicine (and he holds it out to me), and it cured me. Listen now—there is the medicine, it shall not cost you a farthing; just take it, and you will get well." But I do not take it, though I have every reason to believe the man is speaking the truth. Well, suppose the man says, "That medicine has cost me all I have got; take it and live." I take the

medicine from him and dash it to the ground. To be sure, I shall die of consumption, but that is not the reason why I die ; it is because I spurn the remedy. And if men die eternally it will not be God's fault, but because they have despised the remedy.

SALVATION NOT LIMITED BY ELECTION.

I HAVE no sympathy with those men who try to limit God's salvation to a certain few. I believe that Christ died for all who will come to Him. I have received many letters saying I surely don't believe the doctrine of election. I do believe in election ; but I have no business to preach that doctrine to the world at large. The world has nothing to do with election ; but has only to do with the invitation, " Whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely." That's the gospel message. They are sent to preach the gospel to all. After men have received salvation, they can talk about election. It is a doctrine for Christians, for the Church—not for the unconverted world. Our message is " good tidings, which shall be to *all people* ; unto you is born this day a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." " All people," then, this Saviour is proffered to you. Accept Him, and God will accept you ; reject Him, and God will reject you.

THE MOURNER'S FRIEND.

MANY of you have been in the house of mourning, and have been with your friends when they have gone to the grave and looked at the loved one for the last time. There is scarcely one who has not lost some beloved one. I never went to a funeral and saw a mother take the last look of her child but it has pierced my heart, and I could not keep back my tears at the sight. Friends, let me say to you whose hearts are aching, you need a friend like Jesus. He is just the Friend every poor bleeding heart needs. He will have

compassion on you, and will bind up your wounded, bleeding heart, if you will only come to Him just as you are. He will receive you, without upbraiding or chastising, to His loving bosom, and say, "Peace, be still," and you will be able to walk in the unclouded sunlight of His love from that time forth. Christ will be worth more to you than all the world besides. He is just the friend you need, and I pray God you may know Him thus as your Saviour and your Friend.

DECIDE FOR CHRIST.

"How long halt ye between two opinions? if the Lord be God, follow Him, but if Baal then follow him." Alas! it is now as it was then. There are hundreds who are now halting between two opinions, and I wish I could bring them to a decision. There is no reason why they should not decide at once. They must either be for Christ or against Him. There are but two classes, those who are on the way to hell and those who are on the way to heaven. Young man, young woman, do you think religion all a sham, a delusion? If not, change masters at once. Be one thing out-and-out.

THE KEY TO BIBLE STUDY.

I THINK I have got the key to the study of the Bible—take it up *topically*. It is far better than reading a chapter every night and morning, and then forgetting what is read. Some have to put a mark in the Bible where they have read, so as to know where to begin reading next time. That's because they don't think much of what they read. Take up one subject at a time, that of "love," for instance, and spend a month studying what the Bible says about love, from Genesis to Revelation. Then you will love everybody, whether they love you or not. In the same way take

up "grace," "faith," "assurance," "heaven," and so on. When you read the Bible be sure you always *hunt for something*.

Again, study each book separately ; spend six months studying Genesis ; it is the key to the whole. It speaks of death, resurrection, judgment,—it is the seed-plant of the whole Bible. Read the same chapter over and over and over again, and don't leave it until you have understood it. About the twenty-eighth time you read a chapter you will see the Man Christ Jesus, who is on every page of Scripture.

Here is another way. Take up *one word* in a book, such as the "believes," of St. John's gospel. Every chapter but two in that gospel speaks of believing. So, also, look up the nineteen "personal interviews" with Christ recorded in that gospel. Take the "conversions" of the Bible. Take the seven "blesseds" and the seven "overcomes" of Revelation. If you want to get the best book on "assurance," read 1 John iii. and the three things there worth "knowing." Take up the five "precious things" of Peter, or the "verily's" of St. John. Study the book of Job as a whole ; and the "four things which are little, but exceeding wise." (Prov. xxx.)

THE VOICE FROM HEAVEN.

SOME of our best Bible students think that the God of the Old Testament is the Christ of the New, and that during all those 4,000 years until Christ came, God the Father never spoke ; and some think, further, that the first time God the Father spoke was when Jesus came up out of Jordan : then there was a Voice heard, and the silence of 4,000 years was broken by that Voice coming from the throne of God. Hark what the Voice is saying : "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." That is what God thinks of Christ. The moment the sinner is pleased with Christ, the sinner and God come together. The moment

you come and say as the Father did, "I am well pleased with Him and accept Him," you are wedded to God.

Jesus took Peter, and John, and James up into a great mountain, and there came another voice, the same Voice again—"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye Him." And that Voice went echoing and re-echoing through Palestine and through the earth, and it is echoing still—"Hear ye Him!" Will you hear Him? Hark! what does He say?—"Come unto Me all ye that labour, and are heavy laden. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Will you reject His invitation? Will you refuse His rest and peace?

CHRIST THE FORERUNNER OF HIS PEOPLE.

CHRIST alone knows the true way to life. He has gone through the dark wilderness for us up into the heavens, and has taken His seat at the right hand of God. And if we should ask Him what we shall do, He would say, "Follow Me." When men go off hunting in our country through the untrodden forest, they take a hatchet, and cut a chip off the bark of the trees as they go along, and they call that brazing the way. And so, if I may be allowed the expression, Christ has "brazed the way" for us. He has travelled the road Himself, and knowing the way, He tells us to follow Him, and He will lead us safe on high.

THE MISSION OF CHRIST TO THE WORLD.

IN those words which He read in the synagogue at Nazareth, shortly after His baptism by John, Christ tells us His mission to the world:—"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He hath anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor, He hath sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the *captives*, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at

liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord." Our Saviour was reading from the passage in Isaiah, 61st chapter, 1st verse, and He ceased reading and closed the book in the middle of a sentence. The verse continues, "And the day of vengeance of our God." Christ came to preach the Gospel. By and by He will come again, and commence to read where He then left off. There is an awful day coming, when those who scoff and jeer now will hold a very solemn prayer meeting. Their prayer already stands recorded in Holy Writ. It is "Rocks, fall on us, hide us!" They will call upon the rocks and mountains to fall upon them and hide them from the wrath of God.

These verses read by our Lord are, perhaps, the sweetest in the Bible. The Spirit of the Lord came upon Samson, and he slew a hundred men; upon Moses, and he brought ruin upon Egypt; upon David, and with a sling and a stone he slew the Philistine; upon Elisha, and he locked up the heavens for three years and three months. But the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jesus, not to slay men, but to anoint Him to preach the Gospel to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted. Think of the brokenhearted in London only! Christ is just the friend they require; there is not a heart He is not able to heal.

A GOOD EXCHANGE.

OUR Lord said on one occasion, "There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, but he shall receive a hundredfold more in this present world, and in the world to come life everlasting." But Peter answering said, "Lo, we have left *all*, and followed Thee." So it always is. We make much of our sacrifices. What *had* the disciples left? A few old broken nets and some boats. What did they get in exchange? The kingdom of God!

DESPISE NOT SMALL THINGS.

THE most powerful sermon Christ ever preached was His discourse to Nicodemus. I believe there have been more souls born again by reading the third chapter of St. John's Gospel than by reading any other chapter in the Bible. And that beautiful and wonderful sermon was preached to *one man* only. Yet those wonderful words have lived eighteen hundred years, and now live perhaps more in the minds of the people than at any period of the world's history. And if we Christians have the same mind that Christ had, not despising the day of small things, but each one of us doing what we can to bring some one to the Saviour, we shall see a great work accomplished in the land.

GOD WORTHY OF ALL LOVE.

I WILL challenge any one on the face of the earth to find any reason for not loving God. You shall not find a spirit in the lost world who can give a reason for not loving God. It is only here on earth men think they have a reason for not doing so. In heaven they know Him, and they shout there, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain." Oh, sinner, if you knew Him, you would have no wish to find a reason for not loving Him. He is "the chiefest among ten thousand, and altogether lovely."

THE COMPASSIONATE SAVIOUR.

IF Christ were here in person, standing in my place, His heart would be moved as He looked down into your faces, because He could also look into your hearts, and could read the burdens and troubles and sorrows you have to bear. These are hidden from my eye, but He knows all about them. So when the multitudes of old gathered round about Him, He knew how many weary, broken, and aching hearts there were there. But although we cannot see Him with the bodily eye,

He is ever present with us ; and though each heart alone knows its own bitterness, that bitterness cannot be hidden from the eye of the Son of God. He knows all about it. There is not a sorrow, or trouble, or affliction which any are enduring but He knows all about it ; and He is the same now as He was when here upon earth,—the same Jesus, the same Man of compassion. When He saw the multitudes, He had compassion on them, and healed their sick ; and He will now heal the sin-sick souls, and will bind up the broken hearts. There is no heart so bruised and broken but the Son of God will have compassion upon it if it will let Him. “He will not break a bruised reed, or quench the smoking flax.”

CHRIST A PERSONAL SAVIOUR.

If we wish to know Christ, we must know Him first as our Saviour. If we would meet Christ, we must meet Him first at Calvary. The last time the world ever saw Him was upon the cross at Calvary. The last glimpse that this sin-cursed earth got of the presence of Christ, the last look at Him, was when He hung upon the cross. And we must see Him there first as our Saviour, and know Him to be so. We must have Christ in our hearts as a *personal* Saviour, not only delivering us from the pit of hell, but saving us from our sins.

FOLLOW THE CLOUD.

ALL the children of Israel had to do in the wilderness was to follow the cloud. If the cloud rested, they rested ; if the cloud moved forward, then they moved as it did. I can imagine the first thing Moses, or any of the people, did, when the grey dawn of morning broke, was to look up and see if the cloud was still over the camp. By night it was a pillar of fire, lighting up the camp, and filling them with a *sense of God's* protecting care ; by day it was a cloud

shielding them from the fierce heat of the sun's rays, and sheltering them from the sight of their enemies.

Israel's Shepherd could lead His people through the pathless desert. Why? Because He made it. He knew every grain of sand in it. They could not have had a better leader through the wilderness than its Creator.

And, sinner, can you in all your difficulties, or doubts and fears, have a better leader than Jehovah? Oh! I like that good old hymn,—

“Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty,
Hold me with Thy powerful hand;
Bread of heaven!
Feed me till I want no more.”

Yes, that is the true prayer of the bewildered sinner. God is *able*, and still more, He is *willing* to lead us.

REDEEMED FROM THE LAW.

THE law of God must be kept: “The soul that sinneth, it shall die.” Therefore the law of Christ comes and delivers us from the bondage of the first law. In Galatians, the 3rd chapter and 13th verse, we read, “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law.” Not that He is *going* to do it. Every one that has believed on Him *is* redeemed from the law, “He being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree.”

KEEP YOUR EYE ON CHRIST.

CHILD of God, is your soul in darkness? Well, then, if it is, it is your own fault. Do not charge it to God. “He that believeth in Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light.” It is thoroughly impossible for a child of God to be in darkness. You *have got away* from the light and from Christ, and I *will tell* you how. You have got there by looking

down here. I find nine out of ten Christians are occupied in themselves, looking to see if they have got the right kind of feelings and desires. They are looking to see if they act right and think right. That's not the way; you must keep your eye on Christ if you wish to go straight on. When I was a boy, I used to walk through the snow, looking across my shoulders to see if I walked straight; but I always walked crooked when I looked round to see how I was getting on. And so it is with Christ. If you keep looking to Him, you will go straight on. But if you turn to look behind, you will always get wrong. So, instead of looking to yourself, always look to the Master, and joy and peace will come.

SOLD FOR NOUGHT, REDEEMED BY BLOOD.

CHRIST hath redeemed us and brought us back to God from the hands of Satan, and from the hands of justice. We have sold ourselves for nought, and we shall be redeemed without money and without price. But we are redeemed not with contemptible things such as silver and gold, but by the precious blood of the Lamb:—"Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by Thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation."

CHRIST OUR SHEPHERD.

A VERY sweet thought is that to me—"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." There is no one, except the very babes, who does not understand the work of a shepherd. He watches over his flock, protects them from danger, feeds them, leads them into the best pastures. In fact, the twenty-third Psalm is just a statement of the duties of a good shepherd: "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want," &c.

Father, mother, will you claim Christ as your Shepherd? He is seeking to restore your soul, to lead you

back to the paths of righteousness. Even to death will He lead you, and safely, through its shadow, guide you to a better land. He is the true Shepherd.

Young man, young woman, will you have Christ as your Shepherd? You want to be fed,—are you going to wander about seeking something to satisfy the cravings of your soul? Then I tell you, you never will find anything to satisfy the longings of your heart. The world cannot, and never could satisfy a hungry soul. The Lord Jesus can. He is the Good Shepherd.

My little child, will you have Jesus as your Shepherd? He will lead you gently, safely, softly. He is a tender, loving Shepherd. We all can, if we will. For "God gave Him up freely for us all," that He might have us for His flock. Christ, our Shepherd, will lead us through life, down to the banks of the Jordan; He will lead us across the dark river into His eternal kingdom.

THE WILDERNESS JOURNEY OF LIFE.

We do not get right into heaven the moment we are converted. Some people have an idea that when they get to Calvary, and find a Saviour there, it's all done. That is not so. No, there is the wilderness journey before them. They will need Christ and His help all the way.

THE FIRE OF GOD'S WRATH.

OUT in our western country in the autumn, when there has not been any rain for months, sometimes the prairie grass catches fire; there comes up a very strong wind, and the flames roll along twenty feet high, and go at the rate of thirty or forty miles an hour, consuming man and beast. When the frontiers-men see it coming, what do they do? They know they cannot run *as fast as the fire can run*. Not the fleetest horse can *escape* from that fire. They just take a match and

light the grass around them and let the flames sweep, and then they get into the burnt district and stand safe. They hear the flames roar as they come along ; they see death coming towards them ; but they do not fear, they do not tremble ; because the fire has passed over the place where they are, and there is no danger. There is nothing for the fire to burn. So there is one mountain-peak that the wrath of God has swept over ; that is Mount Calvary, and that fire spent its fury upon the bosom of the Son of God. Take your stand there, by the cross, and you will be safe for time and eternity. Escape for your life, young man, young woman ; flee to yon mountain, and you are saved this very minute. May God bring you to Calvary under the shadow of the cross ! Then let death and the grave come ! You will shout, " Glory to God in the highest ! " For " there is no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus."

A WORD THE DEVIL IS AFRAID OF.

You have all sinned and come short of the glory of God ; but God comes and says, " I will pardon you. Come now, and let us reason together." That word " now " is one of the words of the Bible the devil is afraid of. He says, " Do not be in a hurry ; there is plenty of time ; do not be good now." He knows the influence of that word " now." " To-morrow " is the devil's word. The Lord's word is " now." God says, " Come *now*, and let us reason together : though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow, though they be red as crimson, I will make them as wool."

OUR CHILDREN.

" AND thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children." Here is a command to teach children diligently, but I have not known many parents who are truly diligent in teaching their children the Word of God ; and for want of this many children wander

away. We have warnings in the Bible which ought to come home to all our hearts. What a sad end and what a sad story is that of Eli, in 1 Samuel, 3rd and 4th chapters. May God help us to be faithful about our children !

David was a man after God's own heart, but he neglected his family ; and how God had to punish him, we read in 2 Samuel, xviii. 23. Oh ! it is better to have our hearts broken over our children now in prayer, than to have our hearts broken over them by sorrow in our old age.

SUNNY CHRISTIANS.

WHEN it is dark and stormy here, strive to rise higher and higher, near to Christ, and you will find it all calm there. You know that it is the highest mountain peaks that catch the first rays of the sun. So those who rise highest catch the first news from heaven. It is those sunny Christians who go through the world with smiles on their faces that win souls. And, on the other hand, it is those Christians who go through the world hanging their heads like bulrushes, that scare people away from religion. Why, it's a libel on Christianity for a religious man to go about with such a downcast look. What does the Master say ? "My joy I leave with you, my *joy* I give unto you." Depend upon it, if our minds were stayed upon Him, we should have perfect peace, and with perfect peace we should have perfect joy.

CHRIST'S DEATH THE GOSPEL.

LET us get back to the simple Gospel—*Christ died for our sins*. We must know Christ at Calvary, as our substitute, as our Redeemer ; and the moment we accept of Him as our Saviour and our Redeemer, then it is that we become partakers of the Gospel. The *moment* I believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as my *substitute*, as my Saviour, that moment I get light and

peace. I know some people say, "Oh, it is not Christ's death, it is Christ's life. Do not be preaching so much about the death of Christ, preach about His life." Ah! my friends, that never will save any one. Paul says, "I declare unto you the gospel. Christ *died*"—not Christ lived—"Christ died for our sins; who His own self bare our sins in His own body, on the tree." Now, when I accept of Christ as my Saviour, as my substitute, then I am justified from all things which I could not be by the law of Moses.

THE SECRET OF CHRISTIAN SUCCESS.

IN the first chapter of Joshua we read about a successful man, and the secret of his success. He meditated upon God's law day and night, and being filled with the Word of God, no man was able to stand before him. Others who are mentioned in the Bible had been unsuccessful because they trusted in themselves. Many of the Bible characters fell just in the things in which they were thought to be strongest. Moses failed in his humility, Abraham in his faith, Elijah in his boldness, for one woman scared him away to that juniper tree; and Peter, whose strong point was boldness, was scared by a maid to deny his Lord.

WHAT GOD CANNOT DO.

IN Ireland, some time ago, a teacher asked a little boy if there was anything that God could not do, and the little fellow said, "Yes; He cannot see my sins through the blood of Christ." That is just what He cannot do. The blood of Christ covers them all.

PARDON FOR THE SINNER.

SCARLET and crimson are two fast colours; you would not get the colour out without destroying the garment. And God says, "Though your sins are as scarlet and crimson, I will make them as wool and

snow." "I will do it,"—that is the way God reasons. He puts the pardon in the face of the sinner the first thing. That may appear a strange way of reasoning, but God's thoughts are not our thoughts; and so, sinner, if you want to be saved, though your sins be of deepest dye, the Lord says He will pardon you.

THE GOSPEL NOT TO BE TRIFLED WITH.

I **BEG** of you, do not make light of the gospel invitation. God invites you to the marriage supper of the Lamb. It is a loving God that invites you to a loving feast; and God is not to be mocked. Go play with the forked lightning, trifle with any pestilence, any disease, rather than with God. God is not to be trifled with. It is God that invites you. Young lady, what will you do with God's invitation? Young man, what will you do with God's invitation? Will you accept of it? Oh, may God help you to say from the very depths of your heart, "By the grace of God I will accept it."

CHRIST OUR LIGHT.

"I **AM** the light of the world," said Christ; "he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." He shall have the "very Light of life." Yes, it is the privilege of every Christian to walk in an unclouded sky.

But do we walk thus in an unclouded sky? No, every Christian is often in darkness. If I were to ask this congregation if they were all walking in light, I believe there is scarcely a Christian, if he spoke the true feeling of his heart, but would reply, "No, I am often in darkness." Why is that? It is because we are not following Christ, and keeping close to Him. We are much in darkness when we might be in the light. Suppose the windows of a building were all closed, and we were complaining of the darkness, what *would* any one say to us? Why, they would say, "*Admit the light; open the windows all round, and*

you'll soon have plenty of light." Similarly, if we are in darkness, we must let in Christ, who is the Light, and open our minds to receive Him, and we shall soon walk in light. There is a great deal of darkness at the present time, even in the hearts of God's own people. But follow Him, and then you will have plenty of light. Christ will show to each of us that He is "the Light;" and He will do more, He will set us on fire with His light, that we also may shine as lights in this dark world.

COME JUST AS YOU ARE.

PAUL said he was the "chief" of sinners, and if the chief has gone up on high there is hope for everybody else. The devil makes us believe that we are good enough without salvation, if he can; and if he cannot make us believe that, he says, "You are so bad the Lord won't have you;" and so he tries to make people believe because they are so bad Christ won't have anything to do with them. God invites you to come just as you are. I know a great many people want to come, but they are trying to get better and to get ready to come. Now mark you, the Lord invites you to come just as you are, and if you could make yourself better you would not be any more acceptable to God. Do not put these filthy rags of self-righteousness about you. God will strip every rag from you when you come to Him, and He will clothe you with His glorious garments.

CHRISTIANS REFLECTING CHRIST'S LIGHT.

If Christians want peace and joy let them look to their Sun, and they will walk in unclouded light. Many people seem to think there is a deal of virtue in their doubts,—they are always talking about their doubts. Why, it's dishonourable to God to be always doubting. Before Christ went away He said, "I will leave you as my witnesses; ye are the light of the

world." But we are only just the reflection of Christ's light, so that if a man does shine, he cannot boast,—he cannot take any credit for it,—it is borrowed light. Some one talking to a young convert said, sneeringly, "Oh, it's all moonshine." "Yes," said the young convert, "it is all moonshine. The moon borrows her light from the sun, and we borrow ours from Christ." It is only when the moon is high that the sun strikes it, and it is just the same with the Christian. What he has to do is to mount up and live in the clear light of heaven.

SALVATION NOT TO BE PURCHASED.

MANY people say, with respect to salvation, "I haven't anything to do." Well, you haven't. Salvation has been worked out for you by another. Many go all round the world in search of honour or possessions. Salvation is worth thousands of times more; but you don't get it that way. God has but one price for salvation. Do you want to know what it is? It is without money and without price. Rowland Hill said that most auctioneers found they had hard work to get people up to their price, but that he had hard work to get people down to his. The *wages of sin* is death, but the *gift of God* is eternal life."

THE CHRISTIAN'S SEVEN NEW THINGS.

SEVEN new things should characterise the Christian.

1. The *new birth*: "Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." It may dawn on some like the morning light, and on others like a flash of lightning, but all must experience it, and this man's experience or that man's experience is not to be our test.
2. A *new name*, that is to say a new kind of character among men as well as in the sight of God.
3. A *new creation* (2 Corinthians v. 17). One evidence of the new heart is love to the brethren;—not only

those who love us, but those who hate us. If there is a new heart there will be a new creation. 4. *A new tongue.* The talk of a man who is converted to God is altogether different from what it was before. He seems like another man. Instead of all his talk being about this world, he talks of Jesus and His love. 5. *A new song.* It is a good sign that a man is converted if he begins to sing. Whenever God is reviving His work, new hymns come out. Not many people now read John Wesley's sermons, but Charles Wesley's hymns are sung the world over. 6. *A new way.* Christ has brought us out of "the way of the transgressors," and put us into His way; for He says, "I am the way." Ask yourself, have you new tastes? Do you hate those things you used to love, and love those which you used to hate? Are you thus brought into the new way? Then, 7, *a new heaven and a new earth.* "Old things are passed away, behold all things are become new."

CHRIST MISUNDERSTOOD BY THE WORLD.

It is one of the greatest wonders in the world to see how bitterly men hate Christ without a cause. Why, no man ever lost his life through Him. He never brought misery on any man. On the contrary, "O Israel," he said, "thou hast destroyed thyself; but in Me is thy help." No one on the face of the earth has been so much misrepresented as the Son of God himself. When He was here below no one appeared to understand how loving He was. Even His own disciples, who had been all along associated with Him, did not know how full His heart was of love and compassion for lost and fallen men. John, who ought to have known his Master better, said, "Lord, shall we call fire down from heaven to destroy those men?" Why, it was not very likely that Christ would have done such a thing; He was too full of grace and truth, too eager to save that which was lost. He came to bring life, not to destroy life. But this could not have been said of any one

who came before Him. It could not have been said of Abraham ; for when the people fleeing out of Sodom took Lot, Abraham's ; nephew, captive, he armed himself and his household, and went out against them and slew them, and delivered his nephew. It could not have been said of Moses ; for we read that he turned aside and slew a man, he changed the waters of Egypt into blood, and he brought death upon the people. It could not have been said of David, or Samson, or of any of the eminent men we read of in the Old Testament who preceded Christ, for they did destroy men's lives. And if you search into history, quite apart from the Bible, you will still find no record of Christ having taken man's life at any time. But you will find that the great men of the world, the Cæsars, and the Alexanders, and all the mighty conquerors of old who made themselves a name, took men's lives, and destroyed them abundantly. Not so the Son of God ; He came not to take life, but to give it.

SIN PUT AWAY BY CHRIST.

THE terrible name of sin ! How it used to haunt me in my early years ! I thought all my sins would be blazed out before the great white throne ; that every sin committed in childhood and in secret, and every secret thought, and every evil desire, would be just blazed out before the assembled universe ; that everything done in the dark would be brought to light. But thanks be to God, the gospel tells me my sins are all put away in Christ. Out of love to my soul, He has taken all my sins and cast them behind His back. That is a safe place to have our sins cast away—behind God's back. God never turns back ; He always marches on. He will never see your sins if they are behind His back. That is one of His own illustrations. Out of love to my soul, He has taken all my sins upon Him. Not a part. He takes them all out of the way. "There is no condemnation to him that

is in Christ Jesus." You may just pile up your sins till they rise up like a dark mountain, and then multiply them by ten thousand for those you cannot think of; and after you have tried to enumerate all the sins you have ever committed, just let me bring in one verse, and immediately the whole of that mountain will melt away: "The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin."

SLAVES TO SIN.

THE Lord Jesus can save, and save to the uttermost. And if there is one captive heart here bound by the devil hand and foot, I tell you upon the authority of God's own word, He has power now to snap your fetters and make you free in the liberty of the gospel. Are you a slave to lust, to drink, to any evil appetite, to some foul sin that is carrying you down to death? I bring you good news, my friend: the Son of man came to seek and to save those who were lost. Come just as you are; and with a word, a look, He will save you too.

NO REST HERE.

"If Jesus had given them rest, then would He not afterwards have spoken of another rest." Do you look for that rest here, Christian? There is none. If you are resting you are neglecting your duty, you are shirking your work, and will never enjoy heaven thoroughly. It's the weary only who know what true rest is. "Work while it is called to-day;" be up and doing. That which your hand findeth to do in your Master's vineyard do it with all your might. "Be not weary of well doing, for in due time ye shall reap if ye faint not." Blessed be God, "there remaineth a rest." No rest here below, nothing but toil and labour; but you will enjoy your rest all the more when you do come to the beautiful land above. "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth; Yea,

saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours ; and their works do follow them."

Ah ! but how can that be said of many ?—" They rest from their labours." They never had any labours. Or, again, " Their works do follow them." They have not got any works for Christ to follow them ; they never did any. Alas ! this promise is not for such ; they have nothing to do with it : it is for those who are labouring to win souls to Christ ; who are giving themselves no rest now, and are spending day and night in the Lord's service here on earth.

WHAT HEAVEN THINKS OF CHRIST.

We have got on record what heaven thinks of Christ. Here on earth He was not known—no one seemed really to understand Him ; but He was known in that world in which He had been from the very foundation thereof ; for He was there before the morning stars sang together, before Adam was placed in this world. We are told that John was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and being caught up, he heard a loud shout around him, and looking, he saw ten thousand times ten thousand angels, who were shouting, " Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing ! " Yes, Jesus is worthy of all this. That is what heaven thinks of Him ; would that earth also would take up the echo, and join with heaven in singing, " He is worthy to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing ! " Oh ! come, Thou most high God, and help this poor sin-cursed earth to receive Christ as its Saviour, and to render praises to Him !

PAUL THE CONQUEROR.

Look at " Paul the aged," old and feeble, being led up the streets of Rome to his death. Ah ! Rome never in all her days of triumphant warfare had known

such a conqueror as this man, who is going quietly to his death ; faithful to God, even to death. " Paul, don't you tremble now ? what has all your preaching done for you ? for you are going to be put to death. Come, now, give it up, and perchance they'll let you off. Are not you afraid ? " " Afraid ? " says the aged apostle, " no indeed ! I have had stripes, imprisonments, beatings with rods, stonings, shipwrecks three times, perils of fire, perils of sword, but none of these things move me. This light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh out for me a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. Afraid ? no ! I press towards the mark of the prize of the high calling in Christ Jesus. What the world may or may not do to my poor body, matters not to me—the sooner the better ; I press forward. When absent from the body I shall be present with the Lord." And what was the result ? Why, on the page of history the name of Paul is written down as a good soldier of the Lord Jesus, who could endure hardness like a true soldier should. As one of God's faithful ones, who feared not the face of man, he could say, " I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith ; henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day ; and not to me only, but unto all them that love His appearing." Ah ! he could say " I have kept the faith." Blessed be God ! Paul is not dead, he lives up there ; and at the day of Christ's appearing he shall receive an unfading crown of glory, beautiful, bright, and new, from his Saviour.

STRUGGLING AGAINST THE WORLD.

“WHEN a man is thought much of in this world, it is quite likely Christ won't have much to say for him in the next world. Christ's loved ones are despised and hated ; “(of whom the world was not worthy) ; they wandered in deserts and in mountains, and in dens and

caves of the earth." They have to put up with all kinds of contempt and contumely; that's what Christ's people have to endure here. Ah! and we'll have to bless God for it all. It keeps us from linking ourselves with this world, from settling all our hopes and desires upon it.

If we are to serve Christ and to reach heaven, we must sail right against the world and its way. It's an old saying that a dead fish always swims with the current, and we can always tell the living fish when we see it swimming against the current; and in like manner, if you are dead, you will very likely be sailing smoothly enough with this world, and very well satisfied with yourself; but if you are alive in Jesus Christ, you will be struggling with might and main against the world, its sins, and temptations, and you will be seeking to win souls for Christ, regardless of the world's scoffs, and sneers, and frowns.

FAITH'S VICTORY THROUGH CHRIST.

SAVING faith in the gospel delivers us from four enemies: 1. *Death*, which Christ has deprived of its sting, and now is as harmless as a stingless hornet. 2. The *Grave*, to which we may now say, "O grave, where is thy victory?" for Christ declares, "Because I live ye shall live also." 3. *Sin*, for though our sins are so many, yet Christ has atoned for them, and cast them into the depths of the sea. 4. *Judgment*; we shall not come into the judgment of condemnation, because Christ has come into judgment for us (John v. 24).

MAMMON-WORSHIP.

ISRAEL, after promising to obey the commandments, worshipped the golden calf; and you would find many men now-a-days far more anxious to worship the golden calf of mammon than Christ.

THE GREAT REWARD.

Be not discouraged, Christian, although the way be rough and weary; look up beyond, there is reserved for you a "great reward in heaven"—up in heaven, beyond the clouds, the sorrows, and the tears. Oh, my friends, if *God* calls that reward "*great*," how great must it be? We, perhaps, would call it great, even if it had not been very much, for we are accustomed to little things; but when God calls it "*great*," we may be sure it is something to look forward to. See, then, that you are looking to heaven for your reward.

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE.

A FRIEND of mine out West was walking along the streets one dark night, when he saw approaching him a man with a lantern. As he came up close to him, he noticed by the bright light that the man had got no eyes. He went past him, but the thought struck him, "Surely that man is blind." He turned round and said, "My friend, are you not blind?" "Yes," was the answer. "Then what have you got the lantern for?" "I carry the lantern," said the blind man, "that people may not stumble over me." Let us take a lesson from that blind man, and hold up our light, burning with the clear radiance of heaven, that men may not stumble over us.

VALUE OF THE WORLD'S APPLAUSE.

I BLUSH for much of the so-called Christianity of the nineteenth century. People must have the favour and applause of the world, and the patronage of the great, otherwise they count themselves unsuccessful. But what is the favour, the fame, the glory, the love of this world? I would have none of it. I desire none of its favours. The world is guilty of the blood of God's dear Son.

THE CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLE OF RESTITUTION.

"THIS man receiveth sinners," said the Pharisees of Christ. Sinners, why Zacchæus was not such a sinner as can be met with amongst the well-to-do people of London; he gave half his goods "to feed the poor." Look at that! And yet he felt humbled in the presence of His Saviour. Throughout the whole of Scripture you find one result of Christ's teaching, assuming a practical form, as it is exemplified in the Gospels, namely the operation of the principle of restitution. This seems to have been one of the fundamental principles on which the ancient Christians acted. It is all very well for one minister and another to tell you to do this and that, but Christ says to you, with a voice of entreaty and love, which you cannot resist, "If you love Me, keep My commandments." There, ye sinners and self-righteous men, look at that,—"If you love Me, keep My commandments."

JESUS AS A COMFORTER.

SEE Jesus in the little home at Bethany, binding up the wounded hearts of Martha and Mary, and tell me what think ye of Him as a comforter? He is a husband to the widow, and a father to the fatherless. O ye mourning widows, take my advice, and make Jesus your Comforter. Dear fatherless children make Jesus your Friend. He is a Friend who never dies; He will cheer you in adversity, and will never leave, never forsake you.

MAN'S GRACE AND GOD'S GRACE.

A BANKER's idea of grace is that he will give people a certain time to pay a bill or account, but if they do not pay up by then, woe betide them; but God presents men with interest, capital, and all, and gives it them as *a free gift!*

THE CHURCH A PLACE OF WORK.

A GREAT many look upon the Christian church on earth as a place of rest. Never was a greater mistake. The church is no place of rest, it is a place of work. If the church is looking for her rest here, then, she cannot make a greater blunder: she will never get rest in this world. There are always trials and tribulations and labours here. The rest is up yonder, where Christ is. "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God."

THE WAY OUT OF INFIDELITY.

If there is any one whose mind is filled with infidel thoughts, let him go honestly to God, and He will teach him the right way through the dark wilderness of infidelity. He won't leave him in darkness or doubt. It is the devil's own work to lead men into such doubts; well he knows if he once gets them there he has them pretty safe. It is Satan's work to keep men in ignorance or doubt. It is God's work to teach men. The Teacher is Christ; He is appointed by God for this work. God help us all to accept Him as our Teacher.

ABRAHAM'S FAITH.

Would that there were more men now like Abraham, ready to obey God in the dark without asking the reason why. The old man took his son, and he told him the secret that he had hid from him all the journey—that God had told him to offer him up as a sacrifice; and he bound the boy hand and foot, and laid him all ready on the altar. But just as he was about to stretch forth his hand and slay him, he heard a voice from heaven calling to him, "Abraham, Abraham, spare thy son." God was more merciful to the son of Abraham than to His own Son, for He gave Him up freely for us all.

THE WORLD'S TREATMENT OF CHRIST.

THE world served the Son of God in the same way as it has His followers. He came to bless, and not to curse. For three years He went about doing all the good He could find to do—healing the sick, casting out devils, opening the eyes of the blind, making the lame to leap like a hart, raising the very dead out of their graves. Never a poor sick one came to Him but he was healed. Christ couldn't pass a poor beggar but His heart yearned for him. And yet, how did the world repay Him? Did it worship Him? build a fine house for Him? put up a statue in His honour? No; not so. It hung Him to a tree; it shouted, "Crucify Him! crucify Him!" It preferred the thief and murderer to Him, the Holy One. It yelled out, "His blood be on our heads!" And His blood rests there to this day! "He came to His own, and His own received Him not."

THE REWARD OF THE WORLD.

SOME Christians make a mistake in looking for their reward here below on earth, and they are disappointed because they do not obtain it. This is a great blunder, for the apostle tells us, "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day." Not in this life, but in the life to come. At that great day, we shall receive the crown. So also Christ says, "Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven." You needn't be looking for it on earth; it is "in heaven." The world won't reward you. No; it will hate you, and curse you, and slay you, if it can, "for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you." Ah! if you are expecting a reward down here, you're sure to be disappointed, your hope will be frustrated. Sometimes a man relaxes in his work for the Lord, and seems to lose his strength, and fails to speak for Christ as he used to do. Why?

Just because he has been looking for a reward in this world. And what has he received? Nothing but laughter and mockery. What does the world care for him and his psalm-singing? Thus he falls back, and becomes discouraged; he begins to faint by the way. Such failure comes from looking for a reward in this world!

DEPARTED FRIENDS WATCHING OVER US.

OUR dear departed friends are watching over us, waiting to see if we will come to them, if we will forsake the broad and easy way that leads to destruction, and march Zion-ward. Nor is it wonderful that they should rejoice over such an event; for surely it will give them a new thrill of joy to know they are to have the society in heaven of those whom they loved on earth. Yes, the very angels are delighted to know we are coming—coming to walk the golden streets, to share with them the joys of eternity, to see the King in His beauty.

EARTHLY TREASURE NOT WEALTH.

MEN are always looking forward in this world for something that is to yield them happiness; but when they get it they are disappointed. They exclaim, "Is this all? If I had thought it was like this, I wouldn't have worked so hard for it." How few of us can follow Christ's command—for it is a command!—"Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth." What does it profit us to set our hearts on this world? Nothing; it is worse than vanity. Yet men go on living for this world, and setting their affections upon it, and when they come to be old and feeble, what good does it do them? They expected happiness; they have none. Their hopes are frustrated, and they go down to the grave mourning.

When you come to die, what benefit will your riches be to your soul? None whatever. You will possess

nothing: what you had belonged to this earth, and you must leave it behind you. The great question is, what have you in heaven? Alas for you if you have never laid anything up there! The world may indeed say, "Such a man has died worth so many thousands or millions;" but in reality he is worth nothing at all, if he has not anything laid up in heaven. The world may call him rich and wise, but God calls him a fool: "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee; then whose shall those things be?" Not his own, anyway; but very likely they shall be possessed and lost by some spendthrift son.

FAITH AND LOVE.

THE same scripture which tells us to be sound in faith tells us also to be sound in love. The true believer is like a glass quite full of water, so that directly it is touched it will flow over.

GRACE DISTINCT FROM WORKS.

GRACE is very distinct from works, for without grace works would be of no avail. A lady speaking about an uncle of hers who had given a lot of money for building churches, chapels, &c., seemed to think he could almost of right demand a seat in heaven. Oh! repudiate such an idea; God's grace is a perfectly free gift. If the Queen were to offer any one a splendid present free, it would be ridiculous to proffer a penny in exchange; and it is just as ridiculous to imagine that God would give His grace in exchange for good works.

THE CHRIST OF GOD.

I WOULD like to take you to yon mountain-side to hear that wonderful preacher. Never man spake like this Man. This sermon on the mount is as fresh to-day as when Christ first uttered it. Thank God His *teachings* and *preachings* stand firm to-day. Eighteen

hundred years have rolled away, and yet Christ is thought more of to-day than at any other time in the world's history; and as years roll on His name shall be exalted above every other name, and the stone cut out without hands shall come in contact with the image set up by the man of sin, and break it to pieces like chaff on the threshing-floor.

SUPPLICATION WITH THANKSGIVING.

ONE reason why we don't have more answers to our prayers is because we are not thankful enough. The divine injunction is, "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication, *with thanksgiving*, let your requests be made known unto God." Some one has well said there are three things in this verse—*careful for nothing—prayerful for everything—thankful for anything.*

MORE THAN WAS EXPECTED.

THE sick man of the palsy was let down to the feet of Jesus through the roof. Doubtless the Pharisees were outside waiting the result, to see whether they could find fault with Jesus. They came around just as a good many persons now go round the inquiry-room, to try to reason about it; but they forgot that God was above reason. The man who was sick was let in through the roof, and when he was come down, Jesus, seeing the faith of those that brought him—not the faith of the man himself—said, "Thy sins are forgiven thee." So that he got healed himself and his sins forgiven at the same time, which was more than he expected; and none ever came to Christ but got more than they expected.

WHAT WILL MAKE HEAVEN OUR HOME.

ONCE I heard of a little sick child, whose mother was also seriously ill; and so, in order that she might have

quiet, and that the sick child might be no trouble to her, the little one was taken away to a friend's house, and placed in charge of a kind lady for a time. The mother grew worse, and at length died. The father said, "We'll not tell the child about it, she is too young to remember her mother; just let her remain where she is until the funeral is over." This was done, and in a few days the little girl was brought back to the house. No mention was made of her mother, or of what had occurred; but no sooner was she taken to the house, than she ran first into one room, then into another—into the parlour, the dining-room, and all over the house, and then away into a little room where her mother used to go to pray alone. "Where is mother?" she cried; "I want mother!" And when they were compelled to tell her what had happened she cried out, "Oh! take me away, take me away; I don't want to be here without mother." *It was the mother made it home to her.*

And so it is in heaven. It is not so much the white robes, the golden crown, or the harps of gold; but it is the society we shall meet there that will make heaven our home. Who, then, are there? What company shall we have when we get there? Jesus is there, the Holy Father is there, the Spirit is there—our Father, our elder Brother, our Comforter. Who else is there? The angels are there; dear departed friends are there. And the little ones;—ah! they are there too.

CROWNLESS SAINTS IN HEAVEN.

I HAVE an idea there are thousands of crownless saints in heaven. They just barely get in at the doors. They have, indeed, been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, but there is no reward for them. They have sought their own ease in this world; they have not sought to work for Christ here below, therefore, though admitted to heaven, they enjoy no distinguished reward. "*They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the*

firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever." But none of those that have lost heart and have given up working for the Master here will shine as the stars, or receive the great reward hereafter. For those careless ones there is no bright glory, no place near the throne; they have just got in at the gates—that's all!

THE SAVIOUR'S OFFER.

CHRIST died for us, and all we have to do is to accept Him. Christ said, "You take My life and I will take your sins." Don't you want to make this bargain? Death shall never have his hand on Christ again. And Christ says, My life is yours. Will you not have it? Is it not the height of madness for any one not to accept it? Christ laid down His life that you and I might live. Oh! out of gratitude ought we not to serve Him?

LIVING FOR CHRIST.

WHEN I read the lives of some of the brave old Christians, godly men, striving for their Lord, it makes me feel quite ashamed of my own Christianity. Talk about Christianity now-a-days, just look at the life, look at the struggles, look at the burning anxiety for souls, of those men of old. They lived for Christ and His cause. Their motto was, "None but Christ; none but Christ!" Working, suffering, pains, trials, death itself,—nothing came amiss that was sent by the Master.

Can you, like these Christian heroes, take your stand by the bed of the sick and the dying, and comfort the bereaved, and hold up the downcast? If not, you are not one of Christ's servants. Oh! speak for Him. Or if you cannot speak, you can pray, or you can sing,—it does a sick one good to hear a sweet hymn. You must do something for Christ, if you would win the reward of diligent labour in His service. Young men,

what are you going to do for Christ? And what are you, young woman? Be up and doing; look up and see the great and blessed reward awaiting you. You will enjoy heaven if you serve Christ on earth. Think not of any reward here. Again I say, Look up, look beyond; and there you will find "an exceeding great reward."

THE DEVIL'S CHILDREN AND GOD'S CHILDREN.

CHRIST calls the Pharisees "children of the devil." Strong language that! "*Ye are of your father the devil,*" He says;—very strong language, but it is the language of the Lord Jesus. The truth is, that it is only when we become *born again* that we can claim the title of God's children. But oh! He wants us to call Him *Father*, He loves the name of *Father*.

THREE CLASSES OF CHRISTIANS.

"ASK, and ye shall receive; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened." It is the Saviour who says so. And we find that in these words we have three classes of prayers—the asking, the seeking, and the knocking kind. So, also, you will find the church is divided into these three classes. The first class of Christians *ask*, but they don't look for any answer at all. They would be quite astonished if the answer did come. Then the second class of Christians are the *seeking* kind. They are better than the *asking* kind. They want an answer, and keep looking for it. If their prayers are not answered they know it is not God's fault. When our prayers seem to be neglected, it may be that they are not in accordance with the will of God. If the Holy Spirit indites the prayer, it must be answered. He has access to the secret counsels of the Most High, and He knows what is in accordance with the *Divine* will, and will teach us what to ask for. The *third class*, and best of all, are the *knocking Christians*.

They keep on praying. The door may seem to be made of granite, but it will soon be opened. If our God freely gave up His Son to die for us (and who would have dared to ask such a thing?), surely He who has given us so much will not deny whatever is for our good.

CHRISTIANS AND THE WORLD.

MAY God help His own people to shine brightly, to flash out of darkness, that men may take knowledge of us that we have been with Jesus! But remember, the world hates the light. Christ was the light of the world, and the world extinguished it at Calvary. Now He has left His people to shine. "Ye are the light of the world." He has left us here to shine. He means us to be "living epistles, known and read of all men." The world is certain to watch, and to read you and me. If we are inconsistent, then you may be sure the world will take occasion to stumble at it. The world finds plenty of difficulties in the way; let us see that we Christians do not add more stumblingblocks, by our un-Christlike walk. God help us to keep our lights burning, and to have them clear and brilliant.

OUR TREASURE IN HEAVEN.

IF you see a man's goods and furniture come down by the luggage train, you're pretty sure he'll be down by the next passenger train—he won't be long after: he'll follow his goods; don't be afraid of that. And so it is with heaven; if your treasure is on before you you'll be wanting to follow it too; you'll be glad to be on the road there as soon as possible.

SHUT UP TO THE LORD.

A VERY precious thought is contained in those words: "Neither know we what to do, but our eyes are upon Thee." It is a good thing when the church gets shut up

to the Lord only. Many a man and many a woman have I seen shut up to this, and then the battle is sure to be turned, the victory is sure to come. I don't know that I ever really knew what it was to pray until the American war came on. Then the people learned how to pray. Mothers who knew not but that the next mail might bring them news that their boys were lying in death, wives who were trembling for their husbands, sisters who were in suspense for their brothers, fathers for their sons,—ah ! they learned how to pray then. They learned to wrestle in agony with God for the conversion of their dear ones ere death might cut them down. And God heard many of those prayers, and a great many of the soldiers were converted.

BOLDNESS IN PRAYER.

WHEN we come by prayer to God, burdened with temporal wants, let us leave them entirely in His hands ; but when we ask for spiritual blessings for ourselves, our children, or those around us, let us come boldly and confidently, believing that He will grant it.

PROFESSION DOES NOT SAVE.

MERE profession never saved any man. The devil is a great professor, and so was Judas, but they have gone down to darkness. We must have *possession* as well as profession. Professing mother, where art thou ? Have you ever spoken to your child about its soul ? Be in earnest. Act out your convictions of truth and grace. Don't be stumblingblocks in the way of another's salvation.

THE PRESENT CURSE OF CHRISTIANITY.

I do not have much hope of there being a reformation until we get a division between the Church and the world. If a man is for God, let him say so. If a *man is for God*, let him come out and be on God's

side ; and if he is for the world, let him be in the world. This serving God and the world at the same time—this being on both sides at the same time—is just the curse of Christianity at the present time. It retards the progress of Christianity more than any other thing. “If any man will be My disciple, let him take up his cross, and come after Me,” says Christ ; and in another place He says, “Let him take up his cross daily, and follow Me.”

CHRISTIAN ASSURANCE.

“He that hath the Son hath life”—hath eternal life ; and who could have such a thing and not know it ? Observe the words : it is *hath*, not *is going to have*, or *will have*, but *hath* it, even now. Is it possible, then, you could have this wonderful gift of God, and yet not know it ? Surely such a wonderful gift will show itself in our life and conversation and daily walk, “that all men may take knowledge of us, that we have been with Jesus.” For a season, indeed, it is possible, yea, it often is the case, that we are in darkness, and know not this precious gift of God. But, assuredly, if we but seek Him, He will show us His face, and in the clear light of His countenance we shall be enabled to “read our title clear to mansions in the skies,” to see our names written in the book of life.

ALL CHRISTIANS CONFESSORS.

SOME people think they should be very careful about confessing Christ ; that they should first keep still for a few years. But Christ said, “Go and tell what great things the Lord hath done for thee.” The Christianity of the nineteenth century says, “Don’t be in a hurry to confess Christ.” But that is not what the Scriptures say. And in order to confess Christ aright it is necessary to sit humbly at the feet of Jesus. Even if any one were at a university or college,

or had been ordained, yet if he had not been in God's school of preparation, by sitting at the feet of Jesus, he would after all be only as sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal. Young converts should be early set to work, just the same as in the time of John Wesley, who promoted such a mighty reformation.

PRAYING CHRISTIANS.

SHOULD every believer be able and willing to offer up prayer aloud before others? Why should they not? Should not sisters pray for and with their brothers? Should not mothers pray for and with their children? "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." Ability to offer up prayer aloud, in however humble a way, is generally a distinguishing peculiarity of those who are truly converted.

BACKSLIDERS, COME HOME.

I NEVER saw a man that was really born of God, and born again, and born of the Spirit, that ever could find the world satisfy him afterward. I pity thee, backslider; but I want to tell you that the Lord Jesus pities you a good deal more than any one else can pity you. He knows how bitter your life is, He knows how dark your life is, and He wants you to come home. Oh, backslider, come home to-night. I have come with a loving message from your Father. He will receive you with joy and gladness, and He will say, as of him mentioned in Luke xv., "Bring out the best robe, and put it upon him, kill the fatted calf, put a ring on his hands and shoes on his feet, and let us rejoice and be glad: for the wanderer is come home, the dead is alive again." Oh, prodigal, come home. Backslider, say down in the depths of your heart, "I will come back now." Say, as the prodigal of old did, "I will arise and go to my Father," and He will receive you. I never heard of a backslider coming home but God received him. I never heard of a prodigal with his

face toward home, but God was ready to receive him. Did you ever read of such? Never. I defy any man to say he ever knew a really honest backslider want to get home but God was willing to take him in. And He takes you back just as you are. He will restore His love unto your heart, if you will only come.

THE EVERLASTING REST.

OH, choose this day, will you go to the home God has prepared for His own people? Will you join the band that is marching heavenward? Will you enroll your name in the Lamb's book of life? Will you leave everything and "press towards the mark of the prize of our high calling?" If you will, I tell you that eternal glory awaits you. A crown of life will be yours. Jesus will receive you, and usher you into the mansion He has prepared for you. See heaven's gates open; the golden light is even now streaming down upon us! Will you not come, will you not all come? Who will dare to refuse? Oh, may God in heaven grant that you may be at last brought to His everlasting rest. "There remaineth a rest for the people of God." "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him."

THREE STEPS TO PERDITION.

THERE are three steps to the lost world; let me give you their names. The first is Neglect. All a man has to do is to neglect salvation, and that will take him to the lost world. Some people say, "What have I done?" Why, if you merely *neglect* salvation you will be lost. I am on a swift river, and lying in the bottom of my little boat; all I have to do is to fold my arms, and the current will carry me out to sea. So all that a man has to do is to fold his arms in the current of life, and he will drift on and be lost.

The second step is Refusal. There are many who have got on the first step, Neglect. If I met you at the door, and pressed this question on you, you would say, "Not now, not now." But there are others of you who, if I said, "I want you to press into the kingdom of God," would politely refuse:—"I will not become a Christian now; I know I ought, but I won't now."

Then the last step is that of Despising salvation. Some of you have already got on the lower rung of the ladder. You despise Christ. I see some of you looking at me with scorn and contempt. You hate Christ, you hate Christianity, you hate the best people on earth and the best friends you have got; and if I were to offer you the Bible you would tear it up and put your foot upon it. Oh, despisers! you will soon be in another world. Make haste and repent, and turn to God! On which step of the ladder are you, my friend?—are you neglecting, or refusing, or despising God's salvation? Bear in mind that a great many are taken off from the first step; they die in neglect. A great many are taken away refusing. And a great many are taken when on the last step, despising salvation.

WISDOM GIVEN BY GOD.

"If any man lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." If any lack wisdom: I am afraid there are a great many of us who lack wisdom, and even the best of us at times will be in perplexity. There are moments in the life of us all when we seem in a fix: we just stand still, and say, "What shall I do? I don't know which is the best way." Leave it with God, He will Himself be our Teacher!

PILGRIMS AND SOJOURNERS.

WHEN Abraham once caught sight of the holy city with the eyes of his understanding, which were

opened to see its glories, then it was that he "confessed that he was a stranger and a pilgrim on the earth, and that he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God." He had no desire to stay here—heaven was his home—so much brighter, so much better than anything he could find here below. We must all feel we are but pilgrims and sojourners here, our home is above. Our feet are often weary and our hearts heavy; but never mind that, let us look forward to that "city which hath foundations." Weary we may be, and often are, but, blessed be God! there is a place of rest. "There is rest for the weary there."

DEAD, COLD FORMALISM.

THERE is one thing which I fear more than anything else, and that is the dead, cold formalism of the Church of God in the present day. Talk about the *isms*! Put them all together, and I do not fear the whole of them so much as dead, cold formalism. Talk about the false *isms*! There is none so dangerous as this dead, cold formalism which has come right into the heart of the Church. There are many, many of us just sleeping and slumbering while souls all around us are perishing!

OVER THE PRECIPICE.

A LITTLE story that went the round of the American press made a great impression upon me as a father. A father took his little child out into the field one Sabbath, and he lay down under a beautiful shady tree, it being a hot day. The little child ran about gathering wild flowers and little blades of grass, and coming to its father saying, "Pretty! pretty!" At last the father fell asleep, and while he was sleeping the little child wandered away. When he awoke, his first thought was, "Where is my child?" He looked all around, but he could not see him. He shouted at

the top of his voice, but all he heard was the echo of his own words. Running to a little hill, he looked around and shouted again, still all he heard was the echo of his own voice. No response! Then going to a precipice at some distance, he looked down, and there upon the rocks and briars he saw the mangled form of his loved child. He rushed to the spot, took up the lifeless corpse and hugged it to his bosom, and accused himself of being the murderer of his own child. While he was sleeping his child had wandered over the precipice.

I thought as I heard that, What a picture of the Church of God! How many fathers and mothers, how many Christian men and women are sleeping now while their children wander over the terrible precipice, a thousand times worse than that precipice, right into the bottomless pit of hell. Father, where is your boy to-night? It may be just out here in some public-house; it may be reeling through the streets of London, drunk; it may be pressing downward to a drunkard's grave. How many fathers and mothers are there in London—yes, praying Christians too—whose children are wandering away while they are slumbering and sleeping! Is it not time that the Church of God should wake up and come to the help of the Lord as one man, and strive to beat back those dark waves of death that roll through our streets, bearing upon their bosom the noblest young men we have? Oh my God, wake up the Church! And let us trim our lights and go forth and work for Thy kingdom!

HIDDEN DIAMONDS.

For a class of rough boys a young lady is the best teacher, to win them by love and by gentleness. Perchance one of those boys may become a Knox, a Whitfield, a Bunyan, a Newton, or a great reformer, whom God may raise up to shake the country. Many a rough boy is a hidden diamond that may glitter in the Saviour's crown. Shall that crown lack those gems?

What can young ladies do for Christ? Let them work in Sunday schools. Gather rough boys out of the dark lanes of the city, and tell them the story of Jesus and His love. Sing to them sweet gospel hymns, which shall touch them and attract.

CHRISTIAN UNION.

THE only way to keep up the spirit of union among Christians is to sink self; to sink that terrible self which comes up in each man when working for his own little party. And—I suppose some will turn pale when I say this—to sink proselytising. I would rather do anything than try to take a man away from the church where he ought to do his work. But the cry is, “Come out from the sects—come out from the sects.” Where are they to go to? Into another sect? Any body of believers is a sect, call them by what name you will. Yet still the cry is “Come out, come out.” I believe that to be a work of Satan. I want to give young converts advice. If you get a minister that preaches the word of God, stand by him. You won’t gain anything by leaving him. Some persons may be so injudicious as to try to get away some of those young converts from the fold to which they belong. I beg of you as Christian brothers not to be guilty of anything of the kind. Let the spirit of union go on. The work is only just commenced, and all we want is to keep self out of sight, and our little denominations, and parties, and sects, and keep working for Christ. Sink sect! sink self! and exalt Christ: and then the work of God will go on. That is the true way to keep the spirit of unity. Hold up Christ only, and the world cannot help being drawn to Him. “I,” says He, “if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto Me.”

SIMPLICITY OF THE GOSPEL.

WHEN a man is born of the Spirit, then he will understand the word of God, and not before. You

say, "If that is so, how am I to understand how to be saved?" I will tell you. When God puts salvation before a sinner, He puts it so plain that a man that runs can read, and a wayfaring man, though a fool, need not err therein. There are a great many things in the Bible which are dark and mysterious, but when it comes to the plan of salvation, God has put it so plain that any one can understand it if he will. You understand what it is to come; "Come unto Me," says He, "all ye that labour." You know what it is to take a gift; "He came unto His own, and His own received Him not. But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God." "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life." That is taking a gift. You know what it is to believe in a man; well, "believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." You know what it is to put trust and confidence in a man; now put your trust and confidence in the living God, and you are saved. You are saved by casting yourself unreservedly upon the Lord Jesus Christ.

NO HELL, NO HEAVEN.

SOME tell us there is no hell, and some there is no heaven, and if I had to give up one, I would have to give up the other. The same Bible that tells us of heaven tells us of hell. The same Saviour that came down from heaven to tell us about heaven, told us about hell. He speaks about our escaping "the damnation of hell," and I am sure there is no one that has lived since that could tell us as much about it as Himself. If there is no hell, let us burn our Bibles. Why spend so much time studying the Bible? why spend so much time and so much money in building our churches? Let us turn our churches into places of commerce or of amusement; let us eat and drink *and be merry*, for we will soon be gone if there is no

hereafter. But if there be a heaven and a hell, then let us act as God would have us act. God was in earnest when He gave Christ to die for us. Christ was in earnest when he went to Calvary and suffered that terrible death—it was all to save us from that terrible hell !

GOD BARRING THE WAY TO HELL.

DID you ever think that God has given His Son for you ? Yes, He has laid Him, as it were, right across your path, that you might not go down to hell ; and if you do go down to hell, you must go over *the murdered body of God's Son*, you must trample the blood of Christ under your feet ! God so loved the world, that He gave Christ to die, that you and I might live. Oh ! do not make light of that blessed Saviour. Do not have that scornful look upon your brow ; but lift up your heart to God, and say, "God be merciful to me a sinner !" Receive the gift of God !

THE GOSPEL TAKING A FRESH START.

I BELIEVE there has never been a time, in our day at least, when work for Christ was more needed than at present ; nor in our day a time when the Spirit of God was more poured out upon the world. There is not any part of Christendom where the work is not being carried on, and it looks very much as if the glad tidings were just going to take, as it were, a fresh start, and go round the globe. It is time for Christians to rise as one man. It is not only brains that are wanted, but the heart on fire ; and when the heart is on fire, and filled with the Holy Spirit, and with the love of God, then God can use us and work through us.

CHRISTIANS KNOWN BY THEIR LIVES.

PROFESSED child of God, Where art thou ? Now take it home with you ; take it to heart and ask, Where

am I? There are a great many in the Church who make one profession, and that is about all you hear of them; when they come to die you have to go and hunt up some musty old church records, to know whether they were Christians or not. God won't do that. I have an idea that when Daniel died, all the men in Babylon knew whom he served. There was no need for them to hunt up old books. His life told his story. What we want is men with a little courage to stand up for Christ. When Christianity wakes up, and every child that belongs to the Lord is willing to speak for Him, is willing to work for Him, and, if need be, willing to die for Him, then Christianity will advance, and we shall see the work of the Lord prosper.

ALL SEEKERS FINDERS.

I WANT to speak to those that have no God, no hope, no Christ, no peace, no joy. I want to tell you how you can be saved if you will. If you really desire to pass from death to life, if you wish to become an heir of eternal life, if you wish to become a child of God, make up your mind now that you will seek the Kingdom of God. I tell you, upon the authority of God's Word, that if you seek the Kingdom of God you will find it. No man ever sought Christ, with a heart to find Him, who did not find Him.

BLINDNESS OF SINNERS.

ONE might offer a blind man many handsome things, but he could not admire their loveliness. I once heard of a blind man on whose eyes an operation was performed, whereby his sight was restored. "Oh!" said he to his friends, "you never told me of the beauty of the earth." "We did," they said, "but we were not able to tell you of all its beauty." So it is with those who preach to the unconverted. They cannot describe *all the beauties of Christ*; they can only do their best

to let the blind ones know something of His loveliness. The gospel brings the blind into the light. Those who remain in darkness are themselves alone in fault ; for the Great Physician is able and willing, nay, He is waiting, to restore them to everlasting light.

WORLDLY CHRISTIANS.

WHAT shall we say about those Christians who go to balls, operas, and worldly parties?—Why, they are like Lot in Sodom. If they are really Christ's, they will have, as it were, to be burnt out of that state of sinful conformity to the world. For "the friendship of the world is enmity against God."

THE TWOFOLD NATURE OF THE CHRISTIAN.

THE Christian has two natures—the carnal and the spiritual ; and there is a constant warfare going on between them. One of the greatest enemies the Christian has to contend against, in this warfare against sin, is himself ; and if every one were to fight against their carnal nature as they should do, they would not have time to throw stones at other people. If Christians have no internal conflict with themselves, with the flesh and the carnal man, it is an ominous sign, either that they have gone back or have never been converted. If they go along with the world quite smoothly, and find nothing working against them or troubling them, it is a pretty sure sign they have never obtained the new nature and conversion of heart. Let us all strive to manifest in our lives the fruits of the Spirit, by which alone we can glorify God, and secure to ourselves much peace and love and joy.

CHRISTIAN COURAGE AND PERSEVERANCE.

COURAGE and perseverance are necessary on the part of Christian workers in their labours for the cause of Christ. God repeatedly said to His chosen people,

"Fear not," encouraging them to a sacred valour and intrepidity in His service. Three times in Joshua i., the Divine exhortation to that captain of the Lord's host is "Be of good courage." This is just what Moses was in his day,—*a man of good courage*: as, for instance, when he stood before Pharaoh, he quailed not in the presence of the haughty Egyptian monarch, but delivered the unpalatable message with which he was entrusted, relying upon the protection and strength of the Most High.

On the other hand, Peter failed when, in his endeavour to walk upon the sea, he looked at the boisterous waves that raged around him, instead of looking simply to Christ; and, similarly, from want of keeping his eye fixed upon Christ, he was disconcerted by the interrogation of the servant maid in the palace of the high priest, "Surely thou also art one of them," and denied the impeachment with emphatic adjurations.

Let every Christian be strong in the Lord and of good courage; and, not dismayed by the opposition of the ungodly, carry the war into the enemy's camp, and penetrate with holy ardour and consecrated zeal into the thickest dens of vice and the lowest haunts of profligacy and intemperance, with the healing leaves of the gospel of Christ, to reclaim evil-doers from the error of their ways. In the case of a hardened sinner in Chicago, it took four months of unremitting persuasion and appeal to bring him to Christ; but now he is most earnest in reclaiming others. What we most need is a renewed baptism of God's Holy Spirit.

READING THE SCRIPTURES.

I WAS a Christian many years before I found out the value of my Bible. I would just open it at random, and read a chapter as a task, and when that was over would lay it down with a sense of relief, and take up my newspaper. That was reading it as many do—as a duty. Oh! how little I knew then of the *real enjoyment* of studying the Scriptures!

CLOGGED BY SIN.

I ONCE heard of two men in America who, under the influence of liquor, came down one night to where their boat was tied; they wanted to return home, so they got in and began to row. They pulled away hard all night, wondering why they never got to the other side of the bay. When the grey dawn of morning broke, behold, they had never loosed the mooring line or raised the anchor! And that's just the way with many who are striving to enter the kingdom of heaven. They cannot believe because they are tied to this world. Cut the cord! cut the cord! Set yourselves free from the clogging weight of earthly things, and you will soon voyage heavenward.

TRUST IN GOD.

WHAT a sweet word is that word "trust"! But there are some things we must not trust. The reason many are in darkness is because they trust in doctrines, in creeds, or ordinances, instead of in their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. A man said to me lately, that he could not trust himself. We are not required to do that, for our hearts are deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked.

But there is no reason why we should not trust God. God is worthy of our trust; He is always faithful. Our nearest friends may deceive us, but God never will. God will keep them in perfect peace whose minds are stayed on Him. We must be able to say with Job, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him."

If God cannot be trusted, whom can we trust? Unbelief is more than a misfortune; it is a dreadful sin. We must learn to trust, even where we can not see, and we must trust with all our heart. It must not be a half-hearted trust. The fruits of trusting are peace, joy, happiness, and mercy. Who would not trust God?

A DEVICE OF SATAN.

SATAN is down in the audience working while we are preaching. Satan says, "If you accept religion you will have to give up too much. Do not let that man get a power over you to-night. Do not believe that man. If you become a Christian you will have to give up so much."

Let me say—mark the words—God does not come here and ask any man to give up anything. The first thing God wants you to do is to *take*; and after you have taken the new life, and got a new nature, old things will pass away, and all things become new. I tried to stop swearing before I was converted, and the more I tried the worse I became. But one night when Jesus met me, I just received Him, and I have had no desire to swear since. It stopped itself—I got something better. The things I once loved I now hate; and the things I once hated I now love. There was a perfect change, a revolution in my life, when God revealed Himself to me; and since then His yoke is easy and His burden is light. God does not come down and say, "Young man, give up this and that;" but He says, "There is my Son, take Him."

Yes, there is the Gift; and there is not anything that God can give us that is worth more than the gift of eternal life. If you were allowed to choose yourself, would you not ask for eternal life? You would rather have that gift than any other; and that is the gift that God wants to bestow upon you. God says, "Here it is all in My Son. If you receive Him here, He will receive you yonder. If you reject Him here, He will reject you yonder." He came unto His own people, the Jews, and they would not have Him. "His own received Him not; but as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name." Now, the moment you receive Christ you get power to serve Him; the moment you receive the Lord Jesus you *get power to live for Him.*

CHRIST OUR DELIVERER.

CHRIST is our *Deliverer*. The children of Israel were not only saved and redeemed from the bondage of the Egyptians, but they were also *delivered*, that they should not be led back again into bondage. Many are afraid to profess themselves Christians; they think they will not be able to hold on, and therefore shrink from making a profession. But Christ is able to keep you from falling; He is able to deliver you in the dark hour of trial and temptation, from every evil device of Satan, and from the snare of the fowler; and He will deliver you.

HYPOCRITES IN THE CHURCH.

THERE is a class of people who say, "There are some men in the church that ought not to be there; therefore I do not purpose to go into the church." I am not asking you to come into the church—not but what I believe in churches;—but I am inviting you to the marriage supper of the Lamb. We want you to come to Christ first, then we will talk to you about the church.

But you say there are some hypocrites in it. So there are, and I can imagine you saying, "Yes, there is a man here in one of the churches that cheated me out of £5 a few years ago, and you are not going to find me in the company of hypocrites." Well, my friend, if you want to get out of the company of hypocrites you had better get out of the world as quickly as you can. One of the twelve apostles turned out to be a hypocrite, and there is no doubt there will be hypocrites in the church to the end of time. But "What is that to thee?" says Christ to Peter; "follow thou Me." We do not ask you to follow hypocrites, we ask you to follow Christ; we do not ask you to believe in hypocrites, we ask you to believe in Christ.

Another thing, if you want to get out of the company of hypocrites you had better make haste and come to Christ. There will be no hypocrites at the marriage

supper of the Lamb. Your excuse would sound strange there, would it not? We often hear men make it down here; but before Jehovah it would sound very strange for a man to say, "Lord, Thou didst invite me to be at the marriage supper of Thy Son, but I did not accept it because I knew there were some hypocrites that professed the gospel." Man will have no excuse when he comes to stand before God; his mouth will then be sealed.

KINGS AND PRIESTS TO GOD.

WHEN Christ's work was done, the veil of the temple was rent from the top to the bottom. God came out of the holy of holies, and man can now go in. He makes all His people in this dispensation kings and priests. Every one can come right into the presence of God himself. In the Jewish dispensation none but the high priest could enter into the holy of holies; but Christ's veil being rent, God came out and man can go in through the veil of His flesh. "Let us therefore draw near with a true heart, in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water."

CHRIST VICTOR OVER DEATH.

CHRIST burst asunder the bands of death. Death could not hold Him. I can imagine when they laid Him there in Joseph's sepulchre, if our eyes could but have beheld, we should have seen Death sitting over that sepulchre saying, "I have Him at last; He is my victim. He said He was the resurrection and the life. Now I have hold of Him in my cold embrace. Look at Him. There He is; He has had to pay tribute to me. Some thought He was never going to die. Some thought I would not get Him. But He is mine!" But look again! The glorious morning comes, and the Son of man bursts asunder the bands of death, and comes triumphant out of the sepulchre. We do not

worship a dead God, but a Saviour who still lives. Yes, He rose from the grave, and His disciples saw Him ascend. That is what Paul calls gospel. Not only Christ's death and burial, but His ascension into heaven. He went up and took His seat at the right hand of God.

PRESSURE OF BUSINESS.

"I PRAY thee have me excused," is, in effect, the language of many a man to the gospel invitation. "I have not time to attend to religious matters. I have got some very pressing business to-morrow to attend to, and I have to go home as quickly as possible to get my night's rest. You will have to excuse me." So also many a mother would say, "I have to keep at home and attend to the children, you will have to excuse me." "Very pressing business!" "have no time!" Thousands of men say they have not time for religion. But thanks be to God, it does not take time to secure salvation, it takes *decision*. But what have you done with all the time God has given you? Your locks are turning grey, your eye is growing dim, and the temple of your body is coming down; what have you done with all those years? Is it true you have not time? What did you do with the 365 days last year? No time during all those 365 days! What have you done with all those hours during which you have not had time to accept of this invitation?

Men spend fifteen or twenty years to get an education, that they may go out to earn a living for this frail body, which is soon to be eaten up with worms, or five years to learn a trade that they may earn a living; and yet they have not five minutes wherein to seek their soul's salvation! You "have no time." Is it true? You know *it is a lie!* and if you still go unsaved it will not be because you have not time, but because you won't accept the gracious invitation. God says, "Seek *first* the kingdom." That is the first

thing to do. Let the children sit up a little late; let your business be suspended for once. Supposing you do not get so much money to-morrow, yet get Christ; is not that worth more than money? Better for a man to be sure of salvation than to have the wealth of the world rolled to his feet. If you take my advice, then, you will *just take time now*, and just make up your mind now—that *now* the great question of eternity must be settled.

JESUS AS A FRIEND.

OH! come to Jesus as a personal Friend! For twenty years have I made this a rule. Christ is just as habitually near, as personally present, to me as any other person living; and when I have any troubles, trials, and afflictions I go to Him with them. When I want counsel I go to Him; just as if I could talk face to face with Him. Twenty years ago God met me one night and took me to His bosom; and I would sooner give up my life to-night than give up Christ, or that I should leave Him, or that He should leave me, and I should thus have no one to bear my burdens or tell my sorrows to. Why, He is worth more than all the world besides, and He will have compassion upon you as He had upon me. I tried for weeks to find a way to Him; and I just went and laid my burden upon Him, and then He revealed Himself to me; and I have ever since found Him a true and sympathizing Friend—just the Friend you need. I beseech you go right straight to Him.

NO BIBLE IN THE LOST WORLD.

THERE will be no Bible in the lost world, to be a lamp to your feet and a light to your path, to guide you to eternal mansions. You make light of the Bible now, you laugh at its teachings; but bear in mind, there will be no Bible there. You have a Bible *here*; had you not better take it now? had you not

better read it? had you not better believe it? I have not any doubt, if a man had gone to Dives a week before he was taken away, he would have told him he did not believe in the Bible, he did not believe in a place of torment, he did not believe in a word of it. But did that change the fact? He found it out when it was too late; and there was no Bible there to help him out. And bear in mind, if you get into that lost world, there will be no minister to pray for you, no earnest sermons preached to you; it will be too late.

I am speaking, perhaps, to some young people that are in the Sabbath school, and who have a praying teacher. Bear in mind you will have no teacher there to weep over you, to pray for you, to plead with you to come to Christ. I may be speaking to some young man, and he has had some friend come and put his hand upon his shoulder, and ask him to come to Christ. You made light of that, young man; you laughed at him, and you cavilled at him. Bear in mind, there will be no friend to come and put his hand upon your shoulder, and speak loving words to you there. "Son, remember." Do not laugh at such friends; it is God that sent their loving message to you. You laugh now at the church. There will be no church for you to attend in that world, no church bells to warn you of the Sabbath, no tolling of the bell for the death of some friend. It will be *all too late then!*

CHRISTIANS SAFE FOR EVER.

CHRISTIANS are not represented in Scripture as *hoping* for salvation. They do not hope for a thing they already have. If they are ever in darkness, in regard to temporal matters, their soul ought at least to be in light, for the soul of every true believer is safe.

PRAYER AND PRAISE.

I do not say that God will always hear your prayers in the way you expect, but still you are to make your

requests known unto Him. In the Scriptures we are told of one form in which the answer *assuredly* will come. "The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ our Lord." There's more in the Bible about praise than about prayer. The nearer we are to heaven, the more praise there will be in our hearts.

THE OLD-FASHIONED GOSPEL.

IN the 15th chapter of 1st Corinthians the apostle tells us what the gospel is. He says, "I declare unto you the gospel." And the first thing he states in the declaration to these Corinthians is this:—"Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures." This was the old-fashioned gospel. I hope we shall never get away from it. I do not want anything but the old, old story. Some people have itching ears for something new. But bear in mind there is no new gospel. Christ died for our sins. If He did not, how are we going to get rid of them? Would you insult the Almighty by offering the fruits of the body to atone for sin? If Christ did not die for our sins, what is going to become of our souls? Paul puts Christ's death first; and then goes on to tell that Christ was buried, and that Christ rose again.

• JESUS WEeping OVER JERUSALEM.

• BEHOLD Jesus entering Jerusalem. It is His last visit to that city. He comes to Mount Olivet. He is under the shadow of the cross. The city bursts upon His view. Yonder is the Temple, He sees it in all its grandeur and glory. The people are shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" They are breaking off the palm branches, and taking off their garments, and spreading them before Him, still shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" and bowing down before Him. But He forgets it all. Yes, even Cal-

vary with all its sorrow He thinks not of. Gethsemane is there at the foot of the hill ; but He forgets it too.

As He looked upon the city which He loved, the great heart of the Son of God was moved with compassion, and He cried aloud, "O Jerusalem! Jerusalem! which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not." Oh! look at Jesus weeping there over Jerusalem. What a wonderful city it might have been. How exalted to heaven it was! Oh! if they had only known the day of their visitation and rest, and had received their King instead of rejecting Him, what a blessing He would have been to them! And, poor backslider, behold the Lamb of God weeping over you, and crying to you to come to Him, and, receive shelter and refuge from the storm which has yet to sweep over this earth.

GOD'S CASKET UNLOCKED BY PRAYER.

God's best gifts, like valuable jewels, are kept under lock and key, and those who want them must, with fervent faith, importunately ask for them ; for God is the rewarder of them that *diligently* seek Him.

PRAYING FOR TEMPORAL BLESSINGS.

THERE is nothing God's people make so many mistakes in as in praying for temporal things. God's greatest saints have failed in this. Moses was a mighty man of prayer. He had often talked to God face to face ; yet when he asked to be permitted to enter the goodly land it was denied, for God had something better in store for him. There was Elijah, a powerful man of prayer. He prayed, and God shut up the very heavens ; and yet when he was in personal trouble he broke down like a little child, and prayed that he might die under the juniper tree. God did not hear

that prayer. Again, Paul was a mighty man of prayer; and yet, when he prayed to have the thorn removed, God did not hear him. He had to learn the lesson, "My grace is sufficient for thee." Yet, even as a rich father will give his child anything he can, so will our Heavenly Father, if we will only let Him choose for us.

DESPISING MOSES AND DESPISING CHRIST.

IN Hebrews x. 28, 29, we read, "He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses. Of how much sorer punishment, think ye, shall he be thought worthy who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?" To me these are very solemn words. I don't see how any one can hear these verses read and be content to remain unsaved. *They* "died without mercy." Oh! how much sorer still will be the punishment of those who live in this age with an open Bible, which tells how Christ died to redeem us, and make us heirs of heaven!

CHRISTIANS KEPT BY GOD.

A GREAT many Christians are afraid that they will not hold on in the matter of their soul's salvation; but it is written, "Our life is hid with Christ in God;" and again in Peter, "Kept by the power of God." If it rested with us to keep our life, we should be poor work of it. But we may rejoice to think "our life is hid with Christ in God."

ROOTED IN CHRIST.

For this we need to be alone with Him daily; we should give one hour out of the twenty-four, and *specially* set it apart so as to get acquainted with God. *How* can we expect to get acquainted with Him if we

never meet with Him? Many of you may say, "I haven't time." But you should take time to be thus alone with Christ; get up earlier in the morning for it. In our country a great wind will sometimes blow up many trees by the roots, it is because they are not strongly rooted in the place on which they grow; and so with us, if we are not rooted in Christ, we shall have little power to stand.

THE HOME-COMING OF GOD'S PEOPLE.

WHEN we are called by Jesus to arise and come home, it will be with joy. Oh, what a home-coming that will be! And this joy is before you, dear friends, who have been serving Him here below. He calls us, the Master calls us! Can we say we are seeking to stay? Would we wish to stay? No. When He calls, you will arise and meet Him with joy. You will rejoice to follow Him. Follow Him on the earth, and you will have to follow Him from the earth to heaven. Rejoice, then, rejoice! for "great is your reward in heaven." Praise God for this look-out He has given us into the future, and by it let us strengthen our hearts for the trials of this life!

THE WORLD THIRSTING AFTER GOD.

IN the first two verses of Isa. lv. there is mention made of water, bread, milk, and wine. Without water there can be no life; bread gives strength; milk growth; and we can have no joy or power unless we drink the heavenly wine. The invitation given in this scripture to partake of the heavenly feast is universal. It is given to *all* who thirst for the water of life. All men do thirst, they thirst for worldly pleasures and happiness; but such things never have satisfied, and never can satisfy, the thirst of their souls. The fact is that the world is thirsting for Christ, but knows it not. The devil deceives and blinds men; but they are nevertheless thirsting for the water of life.

THE POWER OF PRAYER.

WE should not limit the Holy One, for nothing is too hard for Him. I would rather know how to pray like David than to preach like Gabriel. Prayer moves the hand that moves the universe; and by the wielding of this powerful weapon some bedridden saint may accomplish more in the sick chamber than others in the full enjoyment of health, and who are better known.

THE DAMNING SIN OF THE WORLD.

SOME men seem to talk as if it was a great misfortune that they do not believe. But unbelief is the damning sin of the world. "When He, the Holy Ghost, is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of *sin*, because they *believe not* on Me." That is the sin of the world;—"because they believe not on Me." Why, that is the very tree of sin, and the very root and fruit of sin. This is the tree that brings forth the bad fruit—the tree of unbelief. May God open your eyes to see that God is true, that you may be led to put your trust in Him!

THE CURSE OF INTEMPERANCE.

I STAND upon the teetotal platform, fair and square. I find that I can do a day's work without stimulants. A great many people say they must have wine to stimulate them. I say the best stimulus is the Word of God. During the American war a publican offered wine to a stalwart soldier, but the latter said no, he was a teetotaller. "But," said the publican, "you are in the army now, and you can't get on without it." The soldier brought out a grand old Bible from under his bosom, and said, "That's all the stimulus I want." It would be a glorious day for Britain if you could *just banish strong drink*. I have been told that it is *too strong* a word for me to call it "*infernal*," but I

can't help it when I see the work it is doing. I believe the greatest curse that Great Britain has, is strong drink, and I wish that we could sweep it away; it is destroying so many young men that are the flower of the land. We are told that a hundred thousand men in the United Kingdom are drunkards. Only think of that! Imagine that army marching down, tramp—tramp—along the way to death! God's word says that "no drunkard shall inherit the kingdom of heaven."

FAITH PLEASING TO GOD.

THE men who carried the paralytic believed that if they could only bring him to Jesus, they would not have to carry him back. Faith looks not *at* the mountains, but *over* them. There is nothing that pleases the Son of God so much as faith. If we cannot get a man to come to Christ, let us get a second to help us; and if that is not sufficient, let us get a third and a fourth. Christ was delighted with the faith of these four men, and rewarded them by granting their request.

THE BIBLE SPIRITUALLY DISCERNED.

I NEVER met a sceptic or infidel who had read the Bible through. I heard a man say the other day to another, "Have you read such a book?" "Yes, I have." "What is your opinion of it?" "Well, I have only read it through once; I would not like to give my opinion without reading it more carefully." But men give their opinion about God's Book without reading it. They read a chapter here and there, and say, "Oh, the Book is so dark and mysterious;" and because they cannot understand it by reading a few chapters, they condemn the whole of it. The Word of God tells us plainly that the natural man cannot understand spiritual things. It is a spiritual book, and speaks of spiritual things, and a man must be born of the Spirit before he can understand the Bible. What

seems very dark and mysterious to you now will all be light and clear when ye are born of the Spirit. I can remember some portions of Scripture that were very dark and mysterious to me when I was converted, but now they are very clear. I can remember things that ten years ago were very dark and mysterious, but as I have gone on I understand them better, and the more we know of God, and the more we study the Word, the plainer it will become.

NO TEMPTATION IN CHRIST'S PRESENCE.

THE land of Sodom was no place of temptation to Abram after he had been with the king of Salem (Melchizedek), the King of Peace; and so if we have met with Christ, the Prince of Peace, the world will not prove so tempting to us.

HOW TO LOVE THE LORD'S WORK.

IF you study God's Word, I believe you'll get so full of it that you can't help but speak it out. The reason so many don't care to work for God is, that they are so empty they can't find anything to say. You can't bring water out of a dry well. In our country we have two ways of getting water; the one is by pumping. Now many Christians are like these pumps; you have to pump a long time before you get anything. The other kind of well is what they call artesian; they just dig down and down, till at last they come to the very fountain itself, down hundreds of feet below; then up springs the water into the air—they don't need any pumping then. I wish we could get Christians to be like artesian wells, ever springing up to eternal life.



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JESUS OF NAZARETH PASSETH BY.

"He heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth."—MARK x. 47.

WHAT means this eager, anxious throng,
Which moves with busy haste along—
These wondrous gatherings day by day ?
What means this strange commotion, pray ?
In accents hushed the throng reply,
"Jesus of Nazareth passeth by."

Who is this Jesus ? Why should He
The city move so mightily ?
A passing stranger, has He skill
To move the multitude at will ?
Again the stirring notes reply,
"Jesus of Nazareth passeth by."

Jesus ! 'tis He who once below
Man's pathway trod, 'mid pain and woe ;
And burdened ones, where'er He came,
Brought out their sick, and deaf, and lame ;
The blind rejoiced to hear the cry,
"Jesus of Nazareth passeth by."

Again He comes ! From place to place
His holy footprints we can trace.
He pauseth at our threshold—nay,
He enters—condescends to stay.
Shall we not gladly raise the cry,
"Jesus of Nazareth passeth by."

Ho ! all ye heavy-laden, come !
Here's pardon, comfort, rest, and home.
Ye wanderers from a Father's face,
Return, accept His proffered grace.
Ye tempted ones, there's refuge nigh,
"Jesus of Nazareth passeth by."

But if you still His call refuse,
And all His wondrous love abuse,
Soon will He sadly from you turn,
Your bitter prayer for pardon spurn.
"Too late ! too late !" will be the cry,—
"Jesus of Nazareth *has passed by.*"

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